should intervene to eradicate evil traditions but, unfortunately, in many places, Panchayat institutions themselves pour oil into the fire.

Article 51A of the Indian Constitution not only stresses the aspect of development of scientific temper but consider it as the duty of citizens. Former Prime Minister late Mrs. Indira Gandhi, had stressed, increasing of scientific temper in the society in her 20-point programme.

In some parts of our country people take sick persons to 'yamduts' doing business in superstitions instead of taking them to doctors, thereby, loosing the precious lives of the sick ones.

In the State of Maharashtra some NGOs have been doing the work of creating awareness amongst people, for the last several years which is praiseworthy. It is on account of the efforts of these persons that the Government of Maharashtra have enacted a law on the subject and, it is learnt that Maharashtra is the first State to do so.

I feel that, at the national level too, the Central Government should bring a legislation in this matter.

MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI (Madhya Pradesh):

श्री संजय राउत (महाराष्ट्र) : सर, मैं स्वयं को इस विशेष उल्लेख से सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock.

The House then adjourned for lunch at twenty-four minutes past one of the clock.

The House re-assembled after lunch at three minutes past two of the clock.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

THE BUDGET (GENERAL), 2006-2007

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA (Jharkhand): Thank you, Sir. I hope the Finance Minister will join us at some point of time.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Sir, he is in the other House.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: But, I hope Shri Pawan Bansal will convey especially my congratulations to the Finance Minister.

Sir, I shall begin by congratulating the Finance Minister for presenting his fifth Budget. There have been only four Finance Ministers before him who have had this opportunity of presenting five Budgets.

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : I hope the congratulation doesn't end there.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: You have to wait and have patience, Mr. Sibal. Mr. Chidambaram has now joined the ranks of those Finance Ministers. The fifth Budget of the Finance Minister, the third Budget of this Government, is naturally a very important document. And, I was looking into previous Budget Speeches of the same Finance Minister, of other Finance Ministers, and I noticed that every Finance Minister first deals with the economic context in which he is preparing the Budget. And, then after analysing the economic context in brief paragraphs, he sets out the Budget strategy. The thing that I have noticed in the Budget speech of this year is that it does not deal with the economic context in any detail. There are a few lines to begin with and he does not set out the strategy of the Budget; what is the strategy of this Budget, what is the strategy for the next twelve months and thereafter. He invited us to walk with him on the path of honour and courage - shades of gladiator. I thought a Finance Minister was less war-like than a gladiator, but he invited us to walk on the path of honour and courage.

Sir, since the Finance Minister has not given the economic context, I thought I would begin by looking at the overall picture of the economy -- as I see it, as we see it on this side -- and the economic context for this Budget. There are some underlying concerns in the economy and my first concern is inflation. I am not saying anything that is very new. This year's Economic Survey itself talks of this as one of the danger points. In fact, if I am permitted to quote, the Economic Survey says, "High and volatile international petroleum prices impart an element of uncertainty in the inflation outlook not only for India but also the world economy." And, then

it goes on to say, Sir, "This inflation uncertainty, together with the unresolved global macro economic imbalances casts a shadow on the interest rate scenario. A continued firming up of global interest rates beyond a point poses the risk of dampening the domestic investment boom." I am quoting these lines from this year's Economic Survey on purpose because as all of us are aware, we have not yet felt the full impact of the increase in global petroleum prices because that full increase has not yet been passed on to the economy. The Government has artificially kept the prices low. We are aware of the Rangarajan Committee which has recommended that LPG prices should go up by Rs. 75/- per cylinder, that petrol prices should go up by Rs. 2 per litre and that diesel prices should go up by Rs. 3 per litre. At some point of time, this Government will have to consider the report of the Rangarajan Committee, maybe, after the State elections are over, I don't know. But any increase in diesel prices, as we are all aware, has a cascading effect on the economy and invariably adds to inflationary expectations and inflationary pressures.

Sir, the Reserve Bank of India has said, more or less, the same thing and warned the Government, the economy and everyone against rising inflation. So, that is my first key point. But, unfortunately, despite the fact that petroleum price increases have not yet been fully passed on, what is surprising is that primary product prices are firming up. In fact, they have gone up from something like a little over one per cent to five per cent, which is a very sharp jump in primary product prices. We are aware of the increase in wheat prices, the crisis in the wheat sector, the need for the Government, the compulsion of the Government to import five lakh tonnes of wheat, after so many years of self-reliance in this field. So, there are concerns that I would like to express on the inflation front.

Now, therefore, as the Economic Survey says, once you have inflation going up, interest rates tend to harden. There is no way in which interest rates can be kept soft if inflation is rising. And, there are already signs in our economy, various banks are raising their interest rates, that interest rates are firming up and interest rates will go up from here; they will not remain where they are. Sir, I am mentioning this because we see that over the last three years the economy has grown by over seven-and-a-half per cent and this year it is expected to grow by 8.1 per cent. Now, how has this come about? Why is the industrial sector doing well in this country? I mean, this is a question which will come to everyone's mind. It was not an accident that the economy has started doing well, that

somebody moved a magic wand some day and suddenly the economy has started growing. Sir, I have here with me an article which I read in the *Economic Times* on the 3rd of March, written by Indira Rajaraman. She is a well-known name in economic circles and she has said in this, I quote, "It must not be forgotten that it was the interest rate decline, begun in 2000-01, with the reduction in administered rates on small savings, that has enabled both the growth and fiscal correction that we have seen since then". This Economic Survey, Sir, also talks of five years of continuous softening of interest rates, and it is this softening of interest rates which, as Indira Rajaraman says, has led to an increase in consumer demand, has led to an increase in housing demand and has caused a ripple effect in the economy as a whole. Now, you have a situation where interest rates harden, then this demand is going to dampen, this demand is going to shrink, and, therefore, this is a major concern. Our concern has also been that, while the interest rates are hardening, this is the moment which the Government chosen to reduce by full 100 basis points the interest rates of Employees Provident Fund. The real interest rate, therefore, if you look at 8.5 and 5 per cent, if this is the inflation rate at the moment, is only three-and-a-half per cent. And, this is not adequate. So, therefore, if interest rates harden, it will have its own deleterious impact on the economy.

Now, Sir, the Finance Minister has come out with a very interesting statement and that statement is right in the first paragraph of his speech. He says, "More importantly, at current market prices, gross domestic savings increased to 29.1 per cent of GDP and the rate of gross capital formation increased to 30.1 per cent of GDP". Nobody can quarrel with the Finance Minister because this is a factual statement. But, the problem arises when he adds politics to this in his speech. And, what has he said? He said, "I have no doubt in my mind that these results, that is, growth in domestic savings and growth in gross capital formation, were due to the political message conveyed by the National Common Minimum Programme, the perceptive leadership of the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the policy changes made by the Government, and the palpable confidence of the Indian people that theirfuture is in safe hands". The four reasons that the Finance Minister has given are these four reasons why gross domestic savings have gone up to 29.1 per cent and gross capital formation has gone up to 30.1 per cent. I am very impressed, Sir, by what he said. So, I went into this matter in some detail. We did not have all these things, Sir. We did not have the National Common Minimum Programme; we did not have the perceptive leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh; we did not have the

policy changes which this Government has brought about; and we, the Government of the day, Sir, did not enjoy the palpable confidence of the people of India that their future was in safe hands. That was the time when the figures, as given in the Economic Survey, would show that after reaching a low of 23.5 per cent in 2000-2001, the Gross Domestic Savings kept increasing; it went up to 23.6 per cent next year (23.6 per cent minor marginal increase). But next year, in 2002-03, it jumped, Sir, to 26.5 per cent -- from 23.6 per cent to 26.5 per cent. We did not have any of these four factors in operation. In 2003-04, it went further to 28.9 per cent and these are significant jumps, the most significant jumps that have been recorded in our history as far as Gross Domestic Savings are concerned. And in 2003-04, from 28.9 per cent, it went up to 29.1 per cent. It is an increase of 0.2 per cent, and this increase of 0.2 per cent is because of all these massive four reasons that the Finance Minister has mentioned. Sir, how much do we give to each of these reasons? Five basis points for each reason for increase in Gross Domestic Savings - a total of 20 basis points. Sir, what is even more revealing is that when you look at the figures of the household savings - your savings, my savings, and the savings of every household of India - which is the bulk of our domestic savings. Then, there is private corporate sector, and then there is public savings. Now, as far as the household savings are concerned, it reached an all-time high, Sir, of 23.5 per cent of the GDP in 2003-04 which was the last year of the NDA Government. And in the next year, for which figures are available of the UPA Government, when all these four factors were operating, the confidence of the people that their future was in safe hands, perceptive leadership of the Prime Minister, etc., it actually dropped to 22 per cent. Household savings came down. If it had not been for the fact that the impact of the Fifth Pay Commission had petered out and gradually the massive dissaving that we noticed in public savings had not improved 2.2 per cent in 2004-05, then we would have been in more serious trouble. Therefore, Sir, the point I am making is that this Survey says, We have launched ourselves on the virtuous path, the virtuous cycle of high savings, high investment, and high growth. I will be a little cautious in making the sweeping claim, because we will have to watch figures for the next year. But if the Gross Domestic Savings in the household sector continue to decline, then it is a bad news for the economy.

Similarly, Sir, what does the index of industrial production show? The index of industrial production for April-December this year was 7.8 per cent compared to 8.6 per cent last year for the same period. We all know

that 7.8 per cent is less than 8.6 per cent. What is even more surprising is that the index of industrial production declined to mere five per cent in December, 2005 compared to December, 2004. Tomorrow, perhaps, the CSO will come out with figures of index of industrial production for the month of January and we will watch those figures very carefully to see whether this decline in industrial production is a mere temporary phenomenon or does this represent a trend. Because it's not merely a decline in industrial production; intermediate goods production, Sir, has declined from 6.9 per cent last year to 2.2 per cent this year. And we are aware of the importance of intermediate goods in the economy. But my worry also arises, Sir, from the fact that sales have also declined. In the December quarter of 2004, sales were up; sales of the Indian corporates, the manufacturing sector, were up at 36 per cent. They came down to 15 per cent in the December quarter of 2005. Similarly, profits, balance-sheets of the corporates have also been affected. So, if this is a trend of a decline in domestic savings, rising inflation, hardening interest rates, a decline in the index of industrial production including manufacturing sector, then, I don't see India having entered this virtuous cycle that the Finance Minister talks about. Even exports, Sir, have declined from 26.7 per cent last year to 18 per cent this year and imports have declined from 36.3 per cent last year to 27.3 per cent this year. But despite this decline, the foreign trade deficit has gone up; the current account deficit has gone up. This is the first year, 2005-06, when after increasing for many years in the past, our foreign exchange reserves are actually going to register a decline. And why is it? Because the current account deficit has increased to three per cent of the GDP. Now, I know that it is not yet a matter of concern because we have huge foreign exchange reserves and we can meet any emergency. But my difference with the Finance Minister is, it is, to my mind, no cause for celebration either. I have heard him saying that we should celebrate the fact that current account deficit is at three per cent of the GDP. No. When an economy is growing, of course, imports grow, capital goods import will grow. But the current account deficit is nothing we can be proud of and there is something that will have to be done urgently in order to ensure that our foreign trade deficit is kept within limits and the current account deficit is also kept within limits.

Now, having said this, I will come to the other deficits in the Budget. We are aware, Sir, that the Finance Minister when he was presenting the Budget last year, he said, he was pressing the pause button in the FRBM Act and, therefore, fixed the revenue deficit at 2.7 per cent of

the GDP and the fiscal deficit at 4.3 per cent of the GDP; and this year, he has been applauded and praised for the fact that he has actually improved, 2.7 has become 2.6 and 4.3 has become 4.1. So, despite the fact that he pressed the pause button in the FRBM Act, deficits are under control and he has given us the roadmap for future, including next year. Now, when the Finance Minister presented the Budget on 28th February, on the same evening, the Controller General of Accounts of the Government of India put on the net the monthly accounts of the Government of India and that monthly account talks of all these deficits that I am talking about. So, up to January -- and I am not talking about the percentages, I am talking of absolute numbers -- in the Revised Estimates, the Finance Minister has put a figure in the Budget of revenue deficit of Rs.91,821 crores. The figure of revenue deficit up to January 2006 was already Rs. 92,336 crores. Now, therefore, unless in the months of February and March, there is going to be a *chamatkar,* some miracle is going to take place, this figure will only go up. It is not going to go down. Then, he presented, Sir, on the 7th of March, a few days ago, the third batch of Supplementary Demands to Parliament, and the net cash outgo in the Supplementary Demands is Rs. 8,565 crores, out of which the revenue expenditure I calculated is Rs. 7,234 crores. So, Rs. 7,234 crores is the revenue expenditure in the Supplementary Demands. The absolute figure of revenue deficit has already gone up. Sir, I came across a news report, yesterday, in many of the newspapers, where Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, who is very fond of going to the media at the drop of a hat, has written a letter or is planning to write a letter to the Prime Minister about fertilizer subsidy, and he has said in this letter that since December, the fertilizer companies have not been paid the subsidy amounts which are due to them, three months from now, and what is the amount that he has demanded be made available to him? Rs. 6,900 crores. Rs. 6,900 crores is what he needs for fertilizer subsidy in this year to pay to the fertilizer companies. Now, I was looking at the Expenditure Budget in respect of the Department of Fertilizers, and as far as fertilizer subsidy is concerned, it is very surprising that the figures have been mechanically repeated. The figure which is there in the R.E., has been mechanically repeated for the next year. I know that the Finance Minister does not perhaps have the time to look into every demand for grant, but somebody, perhaps, should have been careful to ensure its correctness because, how can next year's figures be exactly the same as this year's Revised Estimates? And if they are the same, then clearly, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan has a reason to complain to the Prime Minister that subsidy bill is not being

paid. Now, if we add this--and I am not talking of the trend growth in expenditure in the months of February and March-- I am only talking of the Supplementary Demands, the third Supplementary, and I am talking of the demand of the fertilizer sector, together, this will add 0.4 per cent to revenue deficit. So, instead of 2.6 per cent, the revenue deficit could be in the region of 3 per cent. So, I would like to hold back my congratulation to the Finance Minister, Mr. Sibal, until I see the actual figures, some time, in the month of May, when the Controller General of Accounts comes up with the accounts. Sir, the Finance Minister is very lucky. Because of the growth in the economy, and especially, in the industrial sector, revenues are very buoyant, and there have been very few Finance Ministers who have been as lucky as him. The latest up to January would show that revenues have grown up by 21 per cent.

PROF. P.J. KURIAN (Kerala): Do you feel envy?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I do not feel envy. I feel a sense of pity. But I just point out one thing. Next year again, he has projected a growth of 28 per cent in corporation tax. Fine. It could grow by 28 per cent. But, I have my doubts because, as I said, Sir, the corporate balance sheets are under pressure.

But, then, why has he put the growth in excise duty, Central Excise, to only 6 per cent? They are growing by almost 12 per cent this year. Now, if the excise duty which is a very automatic kind of tax, as you know, on production, grows only by six per cent then how does it relate to 28 per cent of corporation tax? I am little surprised. But, Sir, apart from that, what is the most surprising thing in all this? Sir, the most surprising thing that he has in this document that he submits to this Parliament, as required under the FRBM Act, is, "The revenue deficit will go down to 2.1 per cent next year, 2006-07. It will go down further to 1.1 per cent in 2007-08, and it will become nil in 2008-09; that is the terminal year of this Government. If it survives in office then it will be in office until 2008-09, and they will bring it down to nil. Now, Sir, look at the compression, from 2.6 to 2.1, 50 basis points; no quarrel. But, next year, it is supposed to go down by 100 basis points, a full percentage of GDP decline, and in the last year, it was supposed to go down by 1.1 per cent. Now, the GDP, this year, is around 35.5 lakh crores. Next year, it is projected at Rs.40 lakh crores. After that, it will be 47-48 lakh crores. So, what is it that we are talking about, Sir? In the last two years, we are talking about a compression in

revenue expenditure of something like Rs.50,000 crores in one year. Rs.50,000 crores or thereabouts in one year! Now, again, I will go back to Indira Rajaraman because she has done an analysis of revenue expenditure increase in pre-election years. And she has come to the conclusion, Sir, after looking into the empirical evidence that in pre-election years, it goes up by 0.7 to 0.9 per cent of the GDP. So, instead of declining, there will be electoral pressures as a result of which these targets, that the Finance Minister has mentioned in this document, will remain unachievable. Now, why has he done it? Is he moving to External Affairs? I don't know. But it is back-loaded. From being front-loaded, it is being back-loaded. And whoever is in office at that point of time will have one hell of a time, Sir, because this kind of compression in expenditure is not going to take place. And if it takes place according to these targets, then good luck to the UPA!

Now, Sir, I will talk about some other figures which are given in the Budget. First, I will come to agriculture because agriculture is a important subject alongwith rural development. Agriculture which is the priority area in the National Common Minimum Programme is the area in which we shall walk with honour and courage in future. I looked at the Plan outlay of agriculture and I have found that it has gone up, marginally, from Rs.6,425 crores to Rs.7,385 crores. Now, there is a very interesting phrase, term or phrase, that the Finance Minister has used in paragraph 7 of his Budget Speech, Sir. He says--and I quote:

> "One of the important NCMP obligations was to focus on agriculture. We have done so. And the output of foodgrains is expected to be 209.3 million tons, which is about 5 million tons more than in the previous year."

Foodgrain production increased by five million tonnes. How has this come about? This has come about because the Finance Minister has focussed on agriculture. It is as a result of the focus that he has put on agriculture that it has gone up by five million tonnes. Was the focus missing in 2004-05 when it declined by nine million tonnes? Can any Finance Minister in this country, any Government or any Prime Minister claim credit for increase or decrease in the production of agriculture? The unfortunate fact is that despite whatever successive Governments have done, our agriculture is still dependent on the monsoon. If the monsoon is good, you have good agricultural production; if the monsoon is unevenly spread, you have decline in agricultural production. That is why we had, in

2002-03, a massive decline in agricultural production. It went up to a record level of 213 million tonnes in 2003-04 and it came down, as I said, by nine million tonnes. It has again gone up this year. But I can't share the claim of the Finance Minister that since he has focussed on agriculture, this increase in agricultural production has taken place.

But apart from that, let us look at what he has given to the farmers in paragraphs 48 and 49 of his speech. The Finance Minister says, "I am aware of the severe difficulties faced by farmers in the last two years", etc. Then he says, when faced with a dilemma--he was faced with a dilemma on this occasion--he turns to his poet-philosopher, Tiruvalluvar. He has quoted him. After quoting from this famous poet of 2000 years ago, what does he say? He says, "Accordingly, an amount equal to two percentage points of the borrower's interest liability on the principal amount up to Rs.1,00,000 will be credited to his or her bank account before March 31, 2006", and everyone clapped. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): You are also clapping.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I am clapping even now. I clapped then because I didn't understand it. You also clapped because you also did not understand it. ...*(Interruptions)*... Even today I am challenging Mr. Narayanasamy, please stand up and explain this very legalistic language which the Finance Minister has used "an amount equal to two percentage points of the borrower's interest liability up to Rs.1,00,000 will be credited to his or her bank account". So, I asked a Chartered Accountant, "What does it mean?". He said, "It means that if a farmer has borrowed Rs.1,00,000, he will have an interest liability of Rs.9,000. It will be two per cent of Rs.9,000. So, he gets a relief of Rs.180". An amount of Rs.180 will be credited to his account and the farmers, after this, in Andhra Pradesh, in Maharashtra and elsewhere in this country will stop committing suicides because the Finance Minister has given them a relief of Rs.180.

Then, he has, of course, made a very grand announcement of reducing the interest rate on short-term credit up to Rs.3 lakhs to seven per cent. We are all aware of the fact that we had already announced a reduction of up to six per cent. We had reduced it to nine per cent. Then, we said that we would bring it down to six per cent. Seven per cent is not as good as six per cent. I wish the Finance Minister had referred to the same poet or some other poet and reduced it to six per cent.

But, Sir, what is even more surprising is that the Farm Income Insurance Scheme--of which we had said that we would implement, and then he talked about it, but did not try to implement it in his first Budget--has been given a complete go-by. There is no mention of the Farm Income Insurance Scheme. It is a Scheme which will be of great benefit to the farmers because it will calculate their income and protect that income through insurance. I would also like to mention one more figure and that is capital formation in agriculture. Capital formation in agriculture had continuously come down when the present Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, was the Finance Minister. In those five years, it came down from 1.92 per cent of the GDP to 1.57 per cent of the GDP. This decline continued through the two years of the UF Government and the first year of the Vajpayee Government. It came down to 1.26 per cent of GDP in 1998-99 and then it started improving. The figures in the Economic Survey will show that it was generally 2-2.2 per cent. The year 2004-05, the first year of the UPA Government, is the first year in which it has again declined to 1.7 per cent of the GDP. So far as gross capital formation in agriculture is concerned, I would like to give one more figure. We are talking of the investment boom. Investment boom is taking place, but as a proportion of the total gross capital formation, the share of agriculture has declined from 9.4 per cent in 2003-04 to 8 per cent in 2004-05. So, it is bad news for agriculture. If gross capital formation, investment in agriculture is going down, then it can't be good news for anyone.

Now I come to another issue here. In his first Budget Speech of 2004, he said that one of his big dreams was water and he described it as the lifeline of civilization. He talked about two schemes. He said, "We will renovate, repair all the water bodies that are directly connected with agriculture." He estimated that the total number will be five lakhs such water bodies in the whole country. He said, "We will take up a pilot project." Now two years have already gone. What does he tell us in this Budget Speech? He tells us that out of five lakhs, 20,000 water bodies have been identified and the estimated cost is Rs. 4,481 crores. He has also said, "We will be discussing this with the international financial institutions and we will try to find this money and we will ask the States Governments to enter into MoU with the Central Government." This is how far we have travelled as for as this famous scheme, which he called the Water Resources Development Project, in his first Budget, is concerned. He also talked about one lakh water harvesting schemes for irrigation. After 2004, he has preferred to forget about it. He has not talked about it.

Sir, I agree with the Finance Minister and congratulate him, if it pleases Shri Sibal, that he has hit the nail on the head when he talks about water. Especially for agriculture, water is the most important issue and I will even go to the extent of suggesting that we should have a *'sampoorna sinchai yojana'* - call it Rahul Gandhi Sampoorna Sinchai Yojana or whatever. But let us have a *'sampoorna sinchai yojana'* which will ensure that we take water to every field. That is the way we will be able to deal with the problem of agriculture because in the absence of water, with one crop, agriculture is not going to prosper. That is so far as this claim is concerned.

Now the other flagship scheme is health and family welfare. I will talk about only one scheme. Sir, two former Health Ministers are sitting here. Under the Prime Minister Swasthya Suraksha Yojana, we had decided that we would set up six AIIMS type institutions in six different States. I find that the Government has provided, the Finance Minister has provided in the Budget Estimate of 2005-06, a sum of Rs. 250 crores for these six institutions. Do you know how much is the Revised Estimate? When this is Rs.250 crores, the Revised Estimate is Rs.6 crores! And the Budget Estimate for the next year is Rs.75 crores. From Rs.250 crores to Rs.6 crores to Rs.75 crores! Now, Sir, these are all very important issues, and we will not allow this Government to abandon this extremely useful project. There is already an agitation which is building up in Patna...*(Interruptions)*...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: In Orissa also.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Everywhere the people are going to agitate, and I am issuing this warning to this Government. If it continues to dilly-dally with the creation or the setting up of these six AIIMS-type of institutions, everywhere, the people are going to agitate. It will have an impact on people's health; it will have an impact on teaching of medical education.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J.KURIAN) in the Chair.]

Now, I will point out some other expenditure provisions. Under the National Rural Health Mission; in areas like contraception, the Budgetary allocation has gone down from Rs.410 crores to Rs.325 crores; on Rural Family Welfare Services, it has come down from Rs.1,811 crores to Rs.1,491 crores; in area projects, it has come down from Rs.501 crores to

Rs.205 crores. So, these are some of the areas which will cry out for attention in future, and I am sorry that they have not been adequately provided for, not even at the level at which the Budget Estimate of the current year has been put.

Now I will touch upon the more important area, that is, the Human Resources Development. Under that Ministry, we have the very important Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, and we are all paying a 2 per cent surcharge on all taxes by way of an Education Cess. This year the Finance Minister - Shri Kapil Sibal and I were together on a programme in which I made this point - has said that he is going to transfer Rs.8,746 crores to the Prarambhik Siksha Kosh. I had put a question, and it was an Unstarred Question. In the first year of 2004-05, when this cess was levied, the total amount which was collected was Rs.4,319.51 crores. I don't have the figures for 2005-06, that is, the current year, but the next year's figure is put at Rs.8,746 crores. Now, the question that I am putting before this Government is this. He is providing for it from what he is going to collect next year, and transferring it to the Prarambhik Siksha Kosh. What has happened to the cess that was collected in the two years of 2004-05 and 2005-06? Where is that money? The Fund has been made operational only recently. The funds collected earlier are not supposed to be transferred by the Finance Minister to this Kosh. So, I would like to put the following questions: How much money has accrued so far through this Cess? Let somebody clarify this. What has been the Kosh's Budgetary support for elementary education in these years? How much money has so far been spent out of the Kosh on elementary education? I am demanding that the entire amount of cess collected through this Education Cess of 2 per cent be transferred to Kosh without any loss of time, and let this money be used entirely for the purpose for which it has been collected, namely, elementary education.

Sir, I will take a minute of your time talking about another very political point, entirely an unnecessarily point that the Finance Minister made. He said that this Government was now constructing 4.48 kms. per day of highways, compared to 1.86 kms. prior to May, 2004. Prior to May, 2004 is up to 1947! So, what is he comparing, and with what? Is he comparing apples with oranges? What is he doing? Which year and which two years? That, he has not made clear.

But I would like to take a minute of your time, Sir, and the indulgence of this House to say, when we started on the National Highway Programme, this country was not ready. When the then Prime Minister actually announced it, he was scoffed at. They said, "Where are you going to get Rs. 54000 crores to implement the Golden Quadrilateral and the North-South and East-West Corridor projects". And it was not merely, Sir, the constraint of money; there was no equipment in this country to build world-standard highways. We had to import, practically, all the equipment. We made concessions available to importers and builders so that they could bring this equipment. And land was a problem! Everywhere, when you wanted to change the alignment, you had to go and acquire land. Now, we brought the ration; we cooked the food; they are eating and they are saying, ""देखो, कितना गपागप खा रहे हैं।" -- I am eating so fast!. Why make this kind of a comparison and what is the political message that you are trying to give? You removed the photograph of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee from all National Highways the day this Government came into office. You changed the name of Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narain, a point which I made earlier, from the schemes which had been started in the NDA Government. Is this the kind of politics which should be played, when we are talking of growth, when we are talking of courage and honour? Sir, I must lodge the protest of our party against this. But the important point is something else.

The Budget Estimate for the Department of Road Transport and Highways in the current year was Rs. 19085 crores. In the Revised Estimates, it has come down to Rs. 13864 crores. And the Budget Estimate for the next year is Rs. 15,115 crores. There is actually a decline from Rs.19,000 crores to Rs.15,000 crores, even if you compare the BE with the BE. It is a decline. It is a substantial decline of Rs.4,000 crores. And you are talking about the number of kilometres you are building everyday! Sir, I am seeing, and we are all seeing in our travels, with our own eyes, how the work is stalled. It is not progressing. We see it the ground. There are two National Highways which pass through my district. And I see people have abandoned the bridges; they have abandoned the work that they were doing; they have just walked away. All targets have been shifted and we are talking of 4.48 kms. as against 1.86 kms. per day!

Sir, the Finance Minister has taken credit for two more schemes, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and the Bharat Nirman. I was again going through the figures, though Shrimati Brinda Karat has written an article in which she has talked about the figures, and when she

gets a chance to speak, she will throw further light on this. But I was calculating and I found that under the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana, which was a scheme which we had started, the Revised Estimate for this year was Rs. 7650 crores, which has been reduced in the BE of next year to Rs.2,700 crores. So, this amounts to savings of Rs.4,950 crores. Then, we had the National Food for Work Programme which has been subsumed in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. The allocation for the National Food for Work Programme was Rs. 4,050 crores. So, if you take these two figures, they add up to Rs. 9,000 crores. The allocation for the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is Rs.11,300 crores in the next year's Budget. Nine thousand crores are provided for by savings under the SGRY and under the National Food-for-Work Programme. The additionality is only Rs. 2,300 crores. Now, we have all read newspapers, Sir, and estimates by various experts, saying that even if it is confined to 200 districts and we sincerely implement the Employment Guarantee Scheme, it is going to cost Rs.25,000 to Rs. 30,000 crores.

We give an additionality of Rs.2,300 crores, Sir, and, we say, we are going to achieve this target. Somebody is being misled; some game is being played. And these figures reveal the kind of game which is being played. Is this enough? Bharat Nirman, again, a fantastic scheme which has been devised by the UPA Government by clubbing together six already existing schemes and calling them Bharat Nirman. Fine. Now, the Finance Minister claims, "I have increased the allocations by 54 per cent, between this year and the next year, from Rs.12,160 crores to Rs.18,696 crores". This is an increase of Rs.6,536 crores. Now, we had asked in this House, Sir, I remember the Rural Development Minister was answering that question, and repeatedly the Government had said that this Bharat Nirman is going to cost Rs.1,74,000 crores in four years; and four years had started this year. If it is going to cost Rs.1,74,000 crores, and on the record of the House, the Minister of Rural Development had said that the existing allocations for all these six schemes is something like Rs.1,05,000 crores, then, the additionality that we are talking about in four years is Rs.70,000 crores. And, if you divide Rs.70,000 crores by four, then, it works out to Rs.17,500 crores or Rs.18,000 crores. This is the kind of additional money which is required, if Bharat Nirman has to be implemented in the manner in which this Government wants to implement it. And, you provide an additionality of Rs.6,000 crores; and you say, '54 per cent increase'; everyone claps, and you walk away. So, again, like the FRBM targets, is he back-loading? Is he expecting that instead of Rs.18,000 crores in the terminal years, we will be

3.00 P.M.

spending Rs.36,000 - Rs.40,000 crores per year and still compressing expenditure? Sir, it does not make sense to me.

Then, Sir, he has said in his Budget Speech that he has taken credit for the fact that this Government is a great protector of the public sector. He talks of various figures and then, he says, 'we have restructured ten PSEs, including the Indian Telephone Industries Ltd., and the Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd., Ranchi. Now, the Heavy Engineering Corporation, because it is Ranch, it is in Jharkhand, I have been interested in looking at the revival of the HEC. I did not find anything in the Expenditure Budget. But, fortunately, the Supplementary Demands, in the third batch of the Supplementary Demands, I found that he has provided for waiver of non-plan loan and interest on plan and non-plan loan amounting to Rs.1101 crores for the HEC. Now, my question is this. Is this the total package for the revival of the HEC, that you waive the non-plan loan and the interest on plan and non-plan, because I have not seen any provision in the Expenditure Budget for any cash support to the HEC, or, any other kind of support to the HEC? So, my question is this. Please enlighten us; tell us what is your package for the revival of the Heavy Engineering Corporation, and how do you plan to take it forward?

Sir, we had talked of the *Sam* Vikas Yojana. The *Sam* Vikas Yojana was supposed to cater to the requirements of backward areas. There was a large allocation for Bihar in the *Sam* Vikas Yojana. I am aware of the fact that in my district, in Jharkhand, funds are flowing at the district level under the *Sam* Vikas Yojana, and it is considerable fund, Sir, and if well spent, this will be a great boon to the people. But, how will backward areas come up? I personally went to jail trying to ensure that whatever has been done for my backward district is not undone. I am glad that when I talked to the Finance Minister and subsequently to the Prime Minister, I have got some assurance that things will not be undone and they will not come unstuck; but if anything is done anywhere in this country for the improvement and the growth of backward areas, I do not think it should be undone. Nothing by any Government should be done which will take it back in time.

Sir, I will come to infrastructure. I will take just a minute. Nothing is happening on the infrastructure front. Not one major infrastructure project has been taken up by this Government in the last two years. I would like to be corrected if I am wrong--not even one major infrastructure project.

Whatever was progressing, there also the progress has slowed down. But the Finance Minister keeps talking of new institutions. I was looking into his Budget Speeches and I found in his first Budget Speech of 2004 he talked about all inter-institutional group of banks and financial institutions. There was a rosy picture that Rs.40,000 crores will be put together by the inter-institutional group for development of infrastructure in this country. But he never came back to Parliament to tell us what happened to that inter-institutional group or Rs.40,000 crores. But, last year, he talked about a financial special purpose vehicle for financing infrastructure projects.

This year, he tells us that the India Infrastructure Finance Company has actually been incorporated and the reason to celebrate is that they have received the first proposal. According to his Budget Speech, the first proposal for infrastructure financing has been received in two years by this infrastructure finance company. Old timers would remember that Mr. Chidambaram in his earlier incarnation had set up the Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation with headquarters in Chennai. It is Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation. Now we have India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited. Corporation - Company. Unlimited - Limited. But where are the projects?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN): Mr. Sinha, you have already taken one hour. The allocated time is one hour thirty minutes to your party. How much more time would you take? There are 7 more speakers.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I will finish in a few minutes.

Sir, I am making a responsible statement on the floor of the House. Finance has never been a constraint for infrastructure projects. Financial institutions, banks, have always been willing to lend to viable projects. That is not the issue. You can go on creating any number of institutions but nothing is going to move unless you have the right kind of policy.

Sir, I will not take the time of the House but would briefly refer to economic reforms. There is nothing in this Budget on pension, on insurance, on housing, on infrastructure. We will continue to wait for consensus and we know consensus does not include this side but it is limited only up to that side. So, we will wait. We have patience and we will wait.

The only point I would like to make, as far as pension reform is concerned, is every Government of India employee from 1st January 2004 is covered by the new pension scheme. The more we delay implementation of the new pension scheme, to that extent, funds have not been invested. They are lying wherever they are and it is not adding value in the manner in which it was envisaged to add value.

Sir, there has been one major reform. I am sure, my friends on the Left have noticed it. There has been a reform by stealth in the coal sector. Twenty billion tonnes of coal capacity is going to be licensed to private players. Before that the Government had already decided that there is going to be a hundred per cent FDI in the coal sector. Now, 20 billion tonnes of coal capacity! All that you need is a piece of paper to say that you have the contract with the power company, a steel company, with some company, and you will be given contract for exploiting privately those coal mines. Now he has not taken courage and say, "I am going to privatise coal." No, he has done it by stealth, depending on whether they have an order, 20 billion tonnes of capacity will be released. Sir, I will just take a minute of your time on the stock market. There are people in this country who are feeling good. There is a feel good factor because Sensex is soaring. One can have reservations on whether it is justified or unjustified, it is rational, irrational exuberance, but, Sir, I am concerned at the huge scam which has taken place with regard to the IPOs, Initial Public Offer. According to my information, Sir, 53 IPOs issued in 2004-05 and 2005-06 are tainted because 53 IPOs have been manipulated. These manipulators applied for 100 crore shares, 100 crore fictitious shares and they cornered 5 crore shares. They have made huge profits. Now some investigation is taking place. But, Sir, given the nature of this scam, given the extent of this scam, the Registrar of the Issue was involved, the NSDL was involved, the banks were involved, the companies were involved, other entities were involved, it was a scam which spread right across the system...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: It was detected by this Government and investigation has been ordered. ...*(Interruptions)*... It was done earlier. ...*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Yes, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... When you become the Minister of State for Finance, please reply. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, on behalf of my party, I am demanding that there should be a Joint Parliamentary Committee inquiring into this scam. The IPO scam, given the

seriousness of this scam, should be inquired into by a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): First scam, then a JPC. This will continue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I know that we will be discussing the Budgetary Proposals when we discuss the Finance Bill, but I will make only one point as far as the Budgetary Proposals are concerned. I, having presented five Budgets myself, know what goes into the changes in taxation laws and taxation practices. There is one - he has abolished 10(23)(g), which gives especially to infrastructure companies interest remission on Income-tax. He is saying that because interest rates are softening, therefore, "I am abolishing 10(23) (g)", while actually interest rates are hardening. Then the more dangerous thing is, 43 (b), Sir, what he has done is, -43 (b) -- interest not paid -- he has made it retrospectively effective from 1st April, 1989. You know the implications of this, Sir, that when there were many companies when interest rate had softened, went to the banks, got it restructured. In fact, we had a corporate debt-restructuring scheme, which was in place. Now you went to a bank, the bank said, 'okay, you owe me Rs.400 crores worth of interest, do not pay it, I will make it a part of your loan.' This is how the corporate debts were restructured. Now, what Mr. Chidambaram will do is, he will tax all these things with effect from 1st April, 1989 and all these corporate debt restructuring schemes are going to be reopened. He is going to cast an unbelievable burden on the corporates who have gone for this. He has imposed Service Tax on urban cooperative banks. He continues with the absolutely, what shall I say, 'unreasonable' is the most reasonable word, I can use, banking cash transactions tax and the fringe benefit tax. He has reduced Customs Duty from 15 per cent to 12.5 per cent and imposes CVD of 4 per cent, which actually measures up to 5.5 per cent. There is a very interesting point, Sir, again, because of local interest. I have two refractory factories in my district and I found that he has reduced. He said that refractory finished material and refractory inputs carry the same rate of import duty, i.e. 10 per cent. This has to be corrected and then reduced both to 7.5 per cent. So, again finished product and inputs are at the same level. He has imposed service tax, apart from commercial concerns on persons etc. He has imposed service tax on housing societies also. Housing societies, as per my information, are already receiving notices from Service Tax Officers saying that, 'you are now within the mischief of service tax and you have to pay

service tax'. Now, he has raised duty from 8 per cent to 16 per cent on mosaic tiles, imposed fresh duty on roofing tiles. He has brought housing societies under service tax. Last year, he imposed service tax on construction industry and interest on housing loans is going up. Housing, Sir, was a revolution that we unleashed and housing was a sector which was driving this economy, housing, highway, interest rates - now all of them are in danger. But, Sir, in Central Excise - I will take only this and finish with this - somebody might be in agreement, somebody may not be in agreement, but I had decided we will bring the CENVAT rate to 16 per cent. There will be one rate of 16 per cent. No three per cent, four per cent, eight per cent, thirty-two per cent. We were compressing, converging the rates to 16 per cent. What does Mr. Chidambaram say in this Budget Speech? "I reiterate that it is our intention to converge all rates at the CENVAT rate which is now at 16 per cent." So, you agree with my philosophy that all rates are to be converged. But, then, used it to reduce excise duty from 24 per cent to 16 per cent on soft drinks and on small cars. That is all that he did. Because he has done nothing to converge the rates but on the other hand, Sir, I find excise duty has been reduced from 16 per cent to 12 per cent on a specified printing, writing and packing paper. Where does this rate 12 per cent come from? Then, he has removed excise duties on ice creams from 16 per cent to nil. Now, there might be a clue. We may or may not agree with it that ice-cream manufacturers are doing great social service, and therefore, should pay no tax on their manufacturers. So, on soft drinks, on ice creams, on pasta, whether or not cooked or stuffed or otherwise prepared, from 16 per cent to nil. What harm has idli mix or gulab jamun, done where the deduction is only from 16 per cent to 8 per cent? But even more shocking, Sir, is the fact that he has imposed 16 per cent duty on umbrellas, sun umbrellas and their parts, walking sticks and he has imposed 16 per cent duty on soap manufactured under a scheme for sale, Janata Soap. Janata Soap, Khadi Village Industries Commission, hand-made soap will now pay 16 per cent duty. So, 16 per cent duty on Janata Soap, 16 per cent duty on umbrellas, walking sticks and their parts and nil duty on ice-creams, pasta and soft drinks. Small cars have been reduced from 24 per cent to 16 per cent. This is the great Budget of the *Aam Aadmi* that the Finance Minister has presented. Good luck to him, good luck, Sir, to the UPA Government.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (Karnataka): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has presented a Budget of Rs. 5,63,991 crores. It is a Budget which has been described as an outstanding Budget by one of

the greatest economists of the world -- the hon. Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh. Here, the former Finance Minister, who presented five Budgets, tried to dig holes in the Budget and he, sarcastically, passed remarks by saying that it is a 'fantastic' Budget, as claimed by the hon. Finance Minister. Hon. former Finance Minister presented five fantastic Budgets. Had he corrected all the loopholes that were seen in those Budgets?

Sir, there is a buoyancy in the Indian economy. The growth rate was 7.5 per cent in 2004-05. The manufacturing sector registered 8.1 per cent growth rate. Now, I bring it to your notice the growth rate of the world economy. If you kindly go through that, you will find that the average growth rate of the world economy in 2004-05 was 4.3 per cent. Now, what was the growth rate of developed countries like Germany? It was 0.8 per cent. A developed country like Japan registered a growth rate of 2 per cent. And, Singapore registered a growth rate of 3.9 per cent. Sweden registered 2.6 per cent growth rate. The UK registered 1.9 per cent growth rate. The USA registered a growth rate of 3.5 per cent. Sir, only one country that had registered more growth rate than India and it was China which registered a growth rate of 9 per cent. But, India registered a growth rate of 7.5 per cent. The hon. Prime Minister has said that it will be 10 per cent at the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan. When the hon. Prime Minister says that it will be 10 per cent growth rate at the end of the Tenth Plan, is this a mean achievement? Can we say that? The tendency of some people of this country is that you are no better than Japan or Germany or the UK or the USA. We are belittling ourselves. Who are responsible for achieving the growth rate of 7.5 per cent? The coolies on the streets, factory workers, farmers, economists, professors, etc., achieved it. Every sector had contributed. And, now, to say that we have done nothing, the Indian people are weak in hardworking or we are very weak in our intelligence, my submission would be that let us stop belittling ourselves. We should be proud of our people. That is why I submit that this is a contribution of all. We don't say that it is the contribution of the Indian National Congress Party alone. Yes; you ruled the country for some years. You also contributed. Here, there are economists like Dr. Jalan and there are also other economists who had also prepared Budgets and had also presented very good Budgets and nobody is claiming it. And we have to compliment the officers who have prepared this Budget. I compliment and congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for presenting a very good Budget. It is a growth-oriented Budget. So, my submission would be that we should

see the overall position of our economy. What we have done, through this Budget is, we have provided potential for achieving a growth rate of 8 to 10 per cent. The emphasis has been laid on the farming community -- whether it is true or not, I will dwell on it at a later stage -- rural health, education, and infrastructure development. It is a pro-poor-people Budget. I will analyse it and present my arguments before you. This Budget will move our economy towards a higher rate of growth. It is a visionary Budget, presented by the hon. Finance Minister. There are no changes in the corporate taxes; there are no changes in the income tax brackets; he has not levied any new taxes. But, even without levying any new taxes he has increased the resources of the country. With the increased resources, the Budget has proposed a higher Central Plan outlay of Rs. 2,54,041 crores. It is not a small achievement. It accounts about 19% of the Budget. The energy sector for the next fiscal year is Rs. 69,593 cores against the allocation of Rs. 53,720 crores in the current fiscal year; the social services account for Rs. 63,300 crores; the transport sector gets a Plan outlay of Rs. 48, 614 crores, as against, Rs. 40,412 crores in the last Budget; the communication gets Rs. 19,884 crores; the outlay for agricultural and allied activities for the next fiscal year is placed at Rs. 7,384 crores; for the rural development, the allocation is Rs. 18,269 crores. The Finance Minister has rightly taken credit for keeping the fiscal deficit under tight control of 3.8 per cent of the GDP. It is not a small achievement!

Sir, hon. former Finance Minister has stated that the inflation is high. It is 4.2 per cent. We had seen during 1977-1980, when he was a partner in the Government, the inflation rate going up to 22 per cent. The country was suffering; the Indian people were suffering. People worked hard. Under the leadership of the Indian National Congress, slowly it was brought down to 5 per cent, and, now, it is 4.2 per cent. Whether this Budget gives the Government space to invest in a decisive way in improving the quantity and quality of physical infrastructure. The Finance Minister has made the most of this opportunity and utilized it. On the front of physical infrastructure, which the former Finance Minister condemned, the Government is steadily progressing on building roads, both highways and rural roads, on irrigation, as well as on ports and airports. The biggest concern, in my view also is, Sir, on power front. The hon. Prime Minister also made a reference to it when he made a statement here that it is the lifeline of the developing Indian economy. Power generation is growing at a significant rate, lower than the GDP growth rate. The gap between demand

and supply is widening. So, we have to pay attention to it. The hon. Finance Minister should look into that.

Sir, then, on the social infrastructure front; both education, and health education have been allocated significantly higher sums. The Government can be rightly proud of reducing the number of school dropouts. Sir, the number of dropout children came down from 50 million to ten million. By taking what measures has it been brought down? This Mid-Day-Meal Scheme has contributed to a great extent in reducing the number of dropouts.

Sir, now, the hon. former Finance Minister, I can say, condemned the Bharat Nirman Programme. What is this Bharat Nirman Programme? Development and modernisation of our country will never acquire its true measure and significance, if our rural areas are not active partners in the process of social and economic change. Bharat Nirman will add to accelerate the process of reducing the gap between the rural India and the urban India. It should make our rural customers and also rural producers an integral part of the process of wealth creation and wealth distribution. If there is wealth, then, only we can distribute that wealth to all sections of the society, particularly, the poorer sections. It is estimated that an investment of Rs. 1,74,000 crores will be made for Bharat Nirman. Most of this will come from the Government's development outlays. The hon. former Finance Minister doubted whether sufficient allocation would be made or not. Sir, the hon. Prime Minister, outside the Parliament and inside Parliament also, made it very clear that that the outlay will be made available and when it has come from the hon. Prime Minister's mouth, who is an eminent economist of this world, then, definitely, it will be implemented. About Rs. 1,74,000/- crores will be made available. Sir, for that, Sir, only when there is a political will, there is a way. And, we do not have any doubt about the political will of the Prime Minister and of this Government. Sir, the people of India have a vision of India, free of poverty, illiteracy, homelessness, free of regional, social, and gender disparities, with modern, physical and social infrastructure, and a healthy and sustainable environment. Above all, Sir, India wants to stand tall and proud in the comity of nations. For this we have to do a lot. We have to get support, not only from the Opposition parties, but also from the people of the nation. And, the hon. Finance Minister, I assure you that there is support, you go forward, do your duty, and the fruits will come. Go ahead; work hard, and with commitment. Power may come or it may go, but what we

achieve that is most important. For that purpose, I am telling the hon. Finance Minister to go ahead. Now, I come to the UPA Government's eight-flagship programmes: The *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* -- condemned by the hon. former Finance Minister--, the Mid-day Meal Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission, Total Sanitation Campaign, National Rural Health Mission, Integrated Child Development Scheme, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Jawahar Lal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission. The total allocation for these eight flagship programmes is Rs.50,050 crores. It is not a small amount. What we have to see is that it reaches the people, it is properly implemented and accounted for. For that purpose, efforts should be made. Yes, there has been a qualitative change in the Indian Economy. I am not stating this for scoring a debating point. Sir, is it true? Sir, if you look into the basic fundamentals of the economy, you will find that during early 50's, and, then, up to Tenth Five Year Plan, we have gone a long way. Yes, the Indian National Congress promised to the nation that we would be fighting for the political freedom, and, then, for the economic freedom from the economic bondage. Sir, we have done it. We promised to the nation that there would be vibrant, as well as, self-reliant economy, whose objective would be the growth with social justice. Yes, nowadays, we are told that we have given up the policy of self-reliance. Our critics who profess themselves a particular philosophy and ideology, they condemn us saying that we depend on foreign assistance. Sir, is it true? Now, if you kindly look into the public sector outlay during the Tenth Five Year Plan, you will find that it is about Rs.59,300 crores. It will lead to about Rs.60,000 crores. And, what is the foreign assistance which we are going to get for that? It is only seven per cent. I may be corrected. Sir, if in a public sector outlay of Rs. 15,92,300 or about Rs.16 lakhs crores, the foreign assistance is only seven per cent; isn't it an indicator of self-reliance?

Then, I come to the domestic investment rate, which is 30.1 per cent. Domestic savings are 29.1 per cent. So, dependence on the investment from the foreign country is only one per cent. Isn't it a measure that has given confidence to the people of the nation? So, we have to look into all these factors. Self-reliance is not merely a slogan. It cannot be attained by a writing on the wall. It should be attained by a strategy which the hon. Finance Minister has referred to. There is a strategy, which started not today, but it started from the First Plan itself. That strategy has given strength to the economy. Even this Budget also has got a strategy which the former Finance Minister could not read. He could not diagnose it. When one of the hon. Members referred to you, you passed the remark,

'you are envious of that'; you pitied. For what? For adopting a strategy. Now, if that is the truth, why can't you say that? You had also been one of the Finance Ministers of the country. You said that you presented the Budget for five years. Why can't you say, "I also contributed." It is a work, it is a contribution from all the Finance Ministers of all the Governments. It is a contribution of all the Finance Ministers and of all the Governments. Because of that, we have come to this stage. Yes; the Indian National Congress has given a strong economy to the nation. Sir, for that purpose, I say that 'let us work together, and not condemn each other.'

Now, Sir, I come to the other aspect. Some people talk about the private sector, and they say that 'we have neglected the public sector.' In his Budget speech, the hon. Finance Minister has given a commitment to the nation that the public sector will be strengthened, and it is the policy of the Indian National Congress that it will not give up the public sector at any cost. The public sector has played a major role. Sir, in 1947, when we got the Independence, how many public sector undertakings were there? There were only five public sector enterprises, with resources of only Rs. 29 crores. And, what was the contribution of the private sector then? It was 93 per cent. Sir, only seven per cent was coming from the public sector at that time. And, today, what is the position? In the public sector, today, in the Tenth Five Year Plan, we have got about Rs. 16 lakhs crores. That is the kind of investment we have done there. And, the contribution of the private sector has been reduced from 93 per cent to 28 per cent. So, can we say that we have given up the public sector? We will not give up the public sector. We know the importance and also the contribution made by the public sector.

Sir, some criticism has also come in the papers saying that 'we have neglected the States'. It has been said 'States' shares are coming down'. No, it has not come down. Sir, in 1960-61, our total revenue, I mean, the Central Government receipts were just Rs. 1,897 crores. At that time, Sir, the States' share was only Rs. 471 crores, out of Rs. 1897 crores. Now, what is the present position? If you kindly go through the Budget at glance page 16, you will find that it has gone up to Rs. 2,82,021 crores. So, every year, the share of the States is increasing, and nobody can say that it is coming down. That is the policy of the Government of India. Sir, yes, there was a time when the then Finance Minister of the country presented a Budget which was less than the Budget of the Corporation of New York City. Now, what is the Budget we are presenting

today? Sir, today, we have presented a Budget of about Rs. 5,63,000 crores. So, India's economy is growing; it is not coming down. But, what I am saying, to achieve more growth, to create more wealth and in order to invest in all sectors of the economy, we must have the wealth. If there is no wealth, nothing could be done.

Sir, before concluding, I wish to make a few points. There are naxalites who are creating havoc. Who are these people? They are poor people who live in the rural India, particularly in the tribal areas. We have, indeed, made bulk outlay towards the farming sector and rural India. But that is not sufficient. It is true that we are providing about Rs. 1,74,000 to the farming community. Still, I would say, it won't be sufficient.

Sir, what is happening? There is unemployment in rural India, particularly in the tribal areas. I may just bring it to your notice that when I was a Minister, I was looking after the banking sector. There banks were not prepared to give loans of even Rs. 200 to people for making baskets out of roots. That is not right. There is no employment. People are starving. You may not believe, Sir, girls of marriageable age, girls coming of age, did not even have blouses to wear. That was the condition. Under these circumstances, when I was talking to the Minister for Planning, who was sitting by my side earlier, he told me that in certain places that he visited, he saw such a condition. What will happen?

Therefore, we need to think. Why are these people taking up guns? Girls are also taking up guns. Why are they killing? They know that they do not have any real hope of living. That is why, what the great *Indira Gandhiji* did was, she came up with a number of programmes for the weaker sections, so that the wealthy people could also live in peace. What had happened? During this period also, you would remember, not only in Andhra Pradesh, but also in other parts of the country, including your State, people used to come; when they didn't have anything to eat, when they were facing starvation, when their children were starving, they came and cut off the hands of the wealthy people. Indiraji, to make them live, came up with all the programmes, helping the weaker sections. Where are those programmes now? Some programmes are not there at all.

Sir, we have to look after these people, the weaker sections. About thirty-six crores of our people are living below the poverty line. It is more than equivalent to the population of Australia, in fact, more than the population of Australia. I would say that it is more than the population of

Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala or Tamil Nadu. Thirty-six crore people are living below the poverty line. Could we ignore them? For that we need to wake up. Unless we wake up, unless we come to their rescue, nobody can live peacefully. That is the point.

Then, Sir, the other issue is terror. What is the allocation that has been made for security? It is not sufficient. We have to make sufficient allocation. Sir, the society is terrorised. We are living under fear at times. What had happened the other day in Varanasi, Delhi and Ahmedabad? We have to look into these aspects; we have to see whether security is being enforced. Modern technology is available. What is the Intelligence doing? All these things need to be taken into consideration. But Sir, to exploit the situation, to politicise the issue, and to go on a *rathayatra* in the name of integration! It is not in the name of integration; it is in the name of disintegration. We are dividing the society into pieces. Don't do that. If at all you are interested in the people of the nation, if at all you are interested in the integration of the nation, then, you have to give supporting hand to the Government. Let us take single action and also give us your suggestion, and what had happened when you and your team gathered. Sir, I would not refer to any name. Ultimately, Babri Masjid was demolished and then, there was chaos, carnage...*(Interruptions)*... Now, that is why, I am saying, we have to show unity. Let us not flare up the situation. So, Sir, with these words, I would like to say that this Budget is an outstanding Budget, and I would like to compliment and congratulate everyone who has contributed in preparing this Budget.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, in expressing my Party's views on the Budget, I will restrict my comments to certain aspects of it. There is another speaker from Party who will cover the other aspects of it. But, at the outset, I would like to state that we believe that this Budget belies the expectations of the people. This Budget, in many crucial and important spheres which directly affect the livelihood of the people, does not address those basic needs. And indeed, Sir, we also believe that this Budget misses an opportunity after this Government's two years of its five-year term of Office, to backup in financially concrete terms the assurances made in the Common Minimum Programme. Now, we have heard the two speakers from the NDA and the UPA, and, of course, that is one yardstick which they have basically used to judge this Budget. That is a comparative yardstick in their competition to push forward neo-liberal reforms, as my honourable and senior colleague, former Finance Minister,

stated, "कि खाना तो हम ने बनाया, लेकिन ये खाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं।" तो इन दोनों के झगड़े के बीच में हम यह बात जरूर कह सकते हैं कि ये झगड़ा कर के तय कर लें, लेकिन हमारे देश की जनता भूखी रहेगी जब तक यह neo-liberal framework होगा। And, that is why, this competitive spirit of how to take forward the so-called reform framework, started in 1991, pushed forward by the NDA Government and still being followed by the UPA Government, an example of which was a debate which we have heard on the implementation of the FRBM Act. As far as we are concerned, we are against this Act. We opposed the Act when it was passed in Parliament. We believe this Act has been an instrument to put forward a very basic premise of the WTO, IMF, World Bank dictated policy framework whereby the Government cuts its expenditures and retreats from its social responsibilities. Now, I come to the three areas which I would like to focus on. One is the whole aspect of allocations; the second is the direction given to the Budget by allocations or non-allocations in certain spheres; and, the third is what we consider a bias in the area of resource mobilisation. Now, of course, it is a fact that there is a 20 per cent increase in allocations, as far as Budgetary support to the Plan outlay is concerned, but if we judge this increase in terms of the concrete assurances made in the Common Minimum Programme, it is very-very clear that these allocations are extremely inadequate. Just look at the eight flagship programmes taken up by the Government. Now, the Finance Minister has allocated Rs.15800 crores and he says that it is a very big increase of 42 per cent. But, if you just compare it with the Common Minimum Programme, assurance of 6 per cent GDP for education and 3 per cent of GDP for health, then just for education alone, if you are to reach the Centre's share of 6 per cent of GDP, in one year alone, you have to spend something like Rs.42,000 crores; you have made an increase of Rs.6,000 crores.

So, therefore, the only yardstick, we believe, to assess the Budget is to see as to how far a genuine effort has been made to substantially increase allocations in crucial sectors, to meet the commitment made to the people of this country. And, on this, I would like to repeat that the Budget does not meet the expectations which were expected of this Government and the Finance Minister.

The second point, Sir, as I have said, is what is the direction of these allocations and that is very important. Yashwant Sinhaji has said that political statements are being made. I believe, that the Budget is a political statement. If you look at the direction of the Budget, I would like to ask the

Finance Minister as to what is his understanding of the real situation in rural India today. Is he not aware of the acute real distress amongst large sections of the people? Everybody knows and estimates are being made that in the last eight years, 50,000 farmers have committed suicide. If the farmers are committing suicide, what is the situation for the huge mass of landless unemployed people, huge armies of migrant workers who are shifting from State to State including families, including women forced into destitution. And, what has this Budget got for the agriculture sector? The Finance Minister spoke of 2.5 per cent growth. Sir, the Tenth Plan has got a growth rate target of four per cent. We are not going to reach it, and, why are we not going to reach it. Surely, that should be a matter of reflection. We are not going to reach the target of the Tenth Plan, whatever optimism my friend Poojariji, our senior colleague, has shown. We are not going to reach it and it is clear. And, the crucial reason as to why we are not reaching it is because the crucial aspect of protection of the farmer does not form the central point of Government planning, including as reflected in the Budget.

What is happening in the advanced countries? You want to compete in the world. Sir, the advanced countries are giving an amount of $ 360 billion as subsidy to their farmers every year. We have heard China being quoted and misquoted. But, I tell you, Sir, recently, the Chinese Parliament, the People's Congress has decided to give $ 4.2 billion for the farm sector just in one year alone, and, what is our Government doing. You want our farmers to compete.

Sir, prices are crashing. You are from Kerala, Sir. There has been a huge crash in prices of products like pepper, tea, coffee and all these things. What a huge loss! Sir, there were four hundred and ninety nine suicide deaths just in Wayanad. What does this Budget has to offer them? This Government itself has set up the National Commission on Farmers under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan. They have talked about four per cent interest rate for farmers. Shri Yashwant Sinhaji has given a very interesting figure and I want to congratulate him for that. This is a meagre amount being given to our farmers. When the National Commission on Farmers, set up by the Government itself, has said about four percent, has said about debt relief, not a single paisa for debt relief for the farmers is there. They have said about Price Stabilisation Fund, not a single paisa for the Price Stabilisation Fund for the farmers is there. Sir, if you look at the entire sector, entire agriculture and rural development, and a calculation has

been made, going by the Revised Estimates of last year -- when we spent more than what was budgeted for -- of the GDP, the ratio was 1:66, and, this year, when the agrarian situation has worsened, what is the ratio, it is 1:63. So, actually, in an area where it is required most, you have not met the needs of the situation. Even your excise duties, your import policies, what are these, as it is. Our friends on the right here who accepted all removal of restrictions, the quantitative restrictions, and what has this Government done. At least, you could have an Import Protection Framework here. You have not got any import protection. Say for example in cotton? Sushma Ji you have done it before in 2002. You had to do it only in 2004 but you did it two years earlier. But let us not go into that.

My point is that even where you could give some protection to your farmers in raising duties, in protecting the farmers, at least, for some period of time when they are in great distress, you have failed to do it. Therefore, in agriculture, I believe, the Indian farmer has been shown no compassion by the Finance Minister, despite all his claims.

The second point, Sir, which I want to make, is, and this is a matter of extreme concern, regarding food budget, the food economy. Sir, we are proud that this country has been self-sufficient in foodgrains. But today, what is the situation? The Finance Minister has said that we are going to produce 209 million tonnes of foodgrains. It is an increase of five million tonnes. Very good. But, compared to the year before, we are down by four million tonnes, from 213 million tonnes down to 204 million tonnes. Yes, weather conditions, etc., may be one factor. But also, this whole drive to put the food economy, and put it at the mercy of the market is actually what is behind the erosion of our food security to the extent that the Economy Survey itself says that in 1990-91, when the economic reform process started under the able leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh, as Finance Minister at that time, the per capita availability of foodgrains was 468 grams a day. And, Sir, after 16 years of the great economic reform process, the country's self-sufficiency in foodgrains is symbolised by the lowering of the per capita availability to 427 grams a day. And, linked to this is the procurement policy. You are not procuring from your farmers, and the most shocking aspect in this situation is, this Budget cuts down the food subsidy by Rs. 2,000 crores. This is absolutely objectionable, Sir. You have said that you are saving it because of storage cost. Yes, it is true that you have huge surplus. You have got rid of this surplus. How you have got rid of this surplus, we are still not clear about this, because some

reports are there that you exported till August, 2005. But, in any case, your foodgrains mismanagement has led to a situation where we are importing foodgrains. Today, the situation is, I read it in the papers today, some American company has said why are you getting it from the Australians; why not get from the Americans. I don't know, now, with close relations with America, maybe, we can re-float the tenders. But, the fact is that the Indian peasant has got three hundred rupees less than what you are giving to foreign traders. And, this Budget does not address this issue. This Budget, in fact, Sir, goes against the direction of the Common Minimum Programme, towards universalisation of the public distribution system. And, this is an aspect which we want to draw your attention to.

The third question, Sir, is that of employment. We know from the Economic Survey that unemployment rates have increased tremendously for men and more so for women. We also know that there is nothing in this Budget which addresses the basic issue of urban unemployment. There is nothing in the Budget. And, as far as the unorganised sector goes, in which the largest section of our people are working, somehow eking out a livelihood in the unorganised sector with absolutely no framework of legal protection. The Government has said that it is going to bring a Social Security Bill. But, I want to know when this Bill is going to come. Because, as far as the Budget allocation is concerned, for social security, the plan outlay for the entire unorganised sector, where 95 per cent of India's working-women are and where a large section of India's labour force is, you are giving a grand total of only Rs. 4 crores.

I am coming to rural employment, Sir. We have hailed the legislation of REGA. It is a very historic legislation. We can also, I think, legitimately claim to have some role in the formulation and now in the implementation of this legislation. But, what is the money given? Sir, there are around 600 districts in this country. Last year and this year, you are saying that you are giving a legal guarantee in 200 districts to ensure hundred days' work. Very correctly stated. For that, at least, Rs. 20,000 crores to Rs. 25,000 crores is going to be required. The sum total or the addition is something like Rs. 2,000 crores. But, more importantly, Sir, and that is where there is a really dangerous trend here, is that in the SGRY allocations, there is no mention at all of the food component of the SGRY allocation in the Budget. So, in the context of wheat shortages, in the context of mismanagement of our stocks, the issue arises then, for the 400 districts, which are not covered under REGA, what is going to happen to

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the poor there? Are you going to manage that huge unemployment crisis in those 400 districts with Rs.2700 crore? This is the most ridiculous proposition, Sir, and I believe that this is something which the Finance Minister has to clarify.

Sir, now I come to an important point of State finances. We know that in a federal structure, the Centre has certain responsibilities and the States have certain responsibilities. But in all the Centre's economic and financial relations with the States and in the transfer of funds from the Centre to the States, there is one programme, one project, which is called the normal Central Assistance Scheme, which is unconditional -- a grant to the States. Now, we have come to know that the Planning Commission in its discussion with various States has suggested and given an assurance that would be increased about Rs.4,000 crore to the States. But what does this Budget do? In this one programme which is essential for the States' good financial health, firstly, last year, it disbursed less than it was estimated. So, the Revised Estimates bring it down by Rs.1,497 crore. And, in this year, Sir, in the normal Central Assistance Scheme, the allocation is down by another Rs.2624.54 crore. So, Sir, I hope the Finance Minister is going to reverse this suggestion in the Budget which is going to be disastrous for the finances of the States.

Sir, I just want to make one point on Small Savings Schemes, and I am happy in a way that the Budget has increased old-age pension from Rs.75 to Rs.200. But they have said that they are going to send it directly to the post offices in two years. It is going to be a benefit that they will send it directly, the Finance Minister said in his speech. But I would like to draw the attention of the House through you, Sir, to one point. A large number of people, all the pensioners, poorer families, and lower middle-class families have post office savings. They cannot afford to go to the big banks, in the big malls, which are now the symbol of neo-liberal reforms in this country. But, recently, the government has actually dealt a blow to the small savers by cutting the ten per cent bonus on their savings after six years. So, this, I think, is a very harsh measure. I think if you compare what the Government are going to get from this with what they are going to get from helping multinational companies like Pepsi and Coca Cola which sell totally unhealthy products in the Indian market, I hope the Finance Minister will have a balanced view on this and reverse this wrong economic policy which has been made.

Now, Sir, I come to the crucial aspect of resource mobilisation. I believe both the inadequate allocations and the direction of these allocations are also linked to what I can only say is a bias towards the corporate sector. We have heard both the speakers from the NDA and the UPA claiming that no profits are going up to corporates, somebody has said profits are going down, and they are very, very concerned about the good health of the corporates. Sir, I must differ from this. In fact, all the reports are showing that there is a huge increase in profits. But my point is what is the message this Government wants to send to the country? You talk about law and order, Sir. The greatest violation of law and order is by the corporates who owe the exchequer Rs.99,000 crore in tax arrears. When we asked this question to the Finance Minister as a parliamentary question, we got the answer that Rs.99,000 crore was the figure of tax arrears and most of it was in disputes, but around Rs.35,000 crore we could get. So, we want to know this from the Finance Minister. According to his own estimates, tax arrears which are not disputed are to the extent of Rs.35,000 crore. That is more than most of the social sectors' spending that you have given in this Budget. You have the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act. It is a legal provision. You don't have any legal provision, Sir, for resource mobilisation! Therefore, in the name of not having the money, you want to deprive the poor. The Finance Minister has said that he has shown compassion for the farmers. What I say is, let it not be said that he had compassion for the farmers, but passion for the corporates and that is what is coming out of this Budget. There is another aspect, the huge equity market transactions. Our friends earlier in the NDA had actually reversed the long-term capital gains tax, losing the exchequer around Rs.6000 to Rs.7000 crores. So, what we demand from the Finance Minister, Sir, bring back that tax, bring back a sense of accountability of corporate India. You are making profits. Even manufacturing growth has increased, as is clear. If corporates grow, manufacturing will grow and growth rate will grow. But this is 'jobless', if not, 'job loss' growth rate. And, therefore, the corporates will have to be held accountable; the corporates will have to pay their tax arrears; and the concessions given to the corporates have not translated into increased tax allocations from the corporates. I want to point this out, Sir, because the Finance Minister, in his speech, has said -- and I think he was answering many of the questions that we had raised earlier in our discussions on resource mobilisation -- look, I have increased tax collection, I have increased tax-GDP ratio, therefore, my motto 'moderate taxes' works because from moderate taxes,

I get more tax allocations. Actually, Sir, the main increase is from services and the customs duty, and not from the corporate sector. In fact, if you look at the Budget figures, you will find that of the estimates made by the Finance Minister himself, how much tax he is going to get through corporation tax, there is a shortfall of Rs.7,000 crore. So, the corporates are not responding, in the right spirit, to all the thousands of crores of concessions they have been given by successive Governments. Therefore, we would urge this Government, not to show a bias to the corporates, not to have double standards on the issue of resource mobilisation and to ensure that long-term capital gains tax is once more part of the tax structure of this country.

Lastly, Sir, I want to say a few words about gender budgeting. I am very happy, Sir, that the suggestions of women organisations and many struggles that women organisations all over the country have waged for a proper framework of gender budgeting has been addressed, to some extent, by the Finance Minister. As he has said, there has been an increase from 10 Demands for Grants to 24 in 18 Ministries. That is very good. Quantitatively full marks. But what actually do they understand by gender budgeting? Sir, I am afraid, that this is an example of the way to hell being paved by good intentions. As far as women are concerned, if this understanding, this concept, is going to form the basis of gender budgeting, then I am afraid the only place we can end up in is the place I have just mentioned. So, what are the problems here? For example, the budget for children has to be kept separate from the budget for women. Do we want to say in this country that any programme for children is automatically a programme for women? In other words, do we want to say that men in this country have no responsibility and no stakes in programmes for children? I am sure, all the fathers in this House or grandfathers in this House, including you, Sir, would certainly want to have some stake in what their children and grandchildren are getting from the Budget. But, to confuse the issue, the ICDS programme which is primarily a programme for children, although it does also have allocation for lactating and pregnant mother, the entire ICDS allocation is put as a 100 per cent gender component. You please look at the social justice and empowerment figures. I just went through the fine-print and I was shocked to find that of the entire allocation for social justice and empowerment, which in any case is less - in fact, SC/ST spending is lower than what it was last year, which is showing and we object to that - 94 per cent is put as part of gender component. I just don't understand what this whole concept is. And,

thirdly, in Part 'B' of the gender budgeting, the Planning Commission had said, "Thirty per cent of allocations should go to women." It is never implemented. But, what our friends in the Ministries have done, perhaps, because the WCD Department, and maybe, the Finance Ministry was trying, at least, to get some brownie points from women's movement in this country. They must have told them to give, at least, one-third. So, automatically, of all the budgeting done in the various schemes, one-third is given for them, whether it is actually there or not, I do not know. And therefore, I would like to conclude by saying... (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN): Madam Brinda Karat, the time allotted to your party was...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, I know that. I am just concluding.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN): You have taken 25 minutes.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Therefore, now, what I want to say is that, on all these four-five issues which I have raised, including the issue of universalisation of Public Distribution System, more funds for agriculture, reversal of the cuts in the grants to the States, and also very importantly, taxing the rich and imposing a long-term capital gain tax, I think, it is very important for the Government to reconsider these aspects of the Budget. Thank you.

DR. BIMAL JALAN (Nominated): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. I heard Mr. P. Chidambaram, the present Finance Minister, I heard Mr. Yashwant Sinha, the former Finance Minister, I heard Mr. Janardhana Poojary, the former Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, and then Shrimati Brinda Karat, hopefully, the future Finance Minister. So, I have heard a number of Finance Ministers, the past, the present and the future ones. But I must tell you that from a non-partisan perspective, everything that has been said, has some validity. But, India is a complicated country, and therefore, when you are discussing the macro economics, when you are discussing this sort of a big picture, it is possible to pick up different aspects of it and make comments, which are extremely worthwhile, and must be pursued and must be followed. So, I have nothing to oppose to what they have said. But, with your permission, I want to make three or four general core points. The first is, from a non-partisan point of view, what does one think of the Budget? Any Budget is a political document, in a sense, and that is why, the Finance Minister presents it to

the Parliament. It is not presented by the economists outside in the *Economic Times* or the *Business standard* and so on. So, it is a political document. Now, the demands, the pressures for expenditure are high. Every new Government announces, I have noted, at least, 25 new schemes, irrespective of what cost it has, but the resources are limited. Therefore, a part of the political job that the Finance Minister has to do, is to try and combine these various pulls and pressures, in a way, so that it does not harm the country's long-term growth or economic prosperity. I have participated in a number of Budget discussions in the past. Now, judged by that standard, I feel, and I honestly believe, that the Finance Minister has done a remarkably well-crafted job, and I must compliment his team also because, there are huge expenditure demands. Let us take the counter factual. The former Finance Minister, Mr. Yashwant Sinha, was absolutely right that perhaps, he has not provided what he should have provided if all the things which have been announced, had to be implemented. But if that happened, the fiscal deficit in the country would have been in great difficulty. So, one of the great merits of our country, I would say, is that the present Finance Minister, the former Finance Minister and the future Finance Minister, they are all looking after the aggregate interest of the country, and trying to allocate resources in the best possible way they can, and here, I give full marks to our Finance Minister, the present one, as I think, I would have given full marks to our former Finance Ministers, for the kind of Budget that he had presented, under very difficult circumstances. So, this is a well-crafted Budget. This is the first point I wanted to make. From a macro economic point of view, I think, India can take a lot of credit for being where it is. It has been said that it is easy to destroy an economy in a year or two. You can do a lot of bad things. It does not take too long to destroy the house that you have built. But, to build a house, to build an economy, it takes a long time, and the kind of work that has been done by the present Government, the previous Government and the Government before, over a long period of time, we can take justifiable pride in where we are. Now, a lot of things have to be done, and Shrimati Brinda Karat was absolutely right about the rural disparities, about the food insecurity and about so many other things that she talked about, and that is also a part of the programme of this Government, and of all the previous Governments. We just have to make sure how we make use of our resources more efficiently to achieve these goals. So, I would say, by and large, the Budget is well crafted; it does not do what it could have done and spoilt our economy,

given us high inflation, high fiscal deficit and has taken all the credit for which somebody else would have to pay. This is the first point, Sir.

Now, Sir, let me, with your permission, make three or four other points which are, again, of a general nature. We are in the 58th year of our Independence and, I think, we must have had, at least, 65 Budgets since Independence. It does not make sense and I, again, say this not from the perspective of one Finance Minister but from the perspective of the country, as a whole. While we take some credit for simplifying taxes, for convergence of taxes, I believe that we have made our tax system as complex as it can be because every year, we make a very large number of changes. Now, why can't we have a Budget, why can't we have a tax system where the changes are few? If you look at the Finance Bill, it is, Sir, containing 157 pages. I mean, it is one year's Budget, having 157 pages of changes. So, it is not the criticism of the system. Every year, you are expected to present a large number of changes. My suggestion, Sir, is: Why do we have to have this increase in complexity? You have the same road, but within that, you give 157 pages of changes. Why do we have to have that? So, my first suggestion to the Finance Minister is, let us spend the next six months, after the Budget drill is over, between May and, perhaps, November, to see how you can simplify the system.

If you look at a roadmap, all roads look straight. If you look at the Budget and say that you are for simplifying the Budget, that you are for straight Budget, that you are for cutting down exemptions, it looks very simple. I am just reading a book. You would see that the road from, say, Ittawa to Khandua looks absolutely straight, nice, good and clean. But if you travel on that road, you will have by-lanes, you will have ditches, you will have non-paved roads, you will loose your way or you will, in fact, reach somewhere else. So, Sir, this is the Budget; 157 pages of changes you are making this year, I mean, in the Finance Bill; otherwise, it would not have been there. Sir, my suggestion for make up the road strong and stable is not, for this year, but for all the years. This is the first point I want to make about our Budget. Is it possible for us to spend the next six month on simplification? Let the Finance Minister come to the Parliament not with a Budget, but with something else and say that this is what I plan to do in my next Budget to clear it up 20 years ago, the same Ministry of Finance Minister had presented a long-term fiscal policy. It is now lost. The whole idea of a long-term fiscal policy, 20 years ago, in 1985, was that we should

not have to make all these changes. But we do. So, Sir, this is my first suggestion.

And the second one, Sir,--and I am sorry to point this out because this is something which happened over a period of time--is we talked about equity. Every year, we hear about horizontal equity, vertical equity. I would say, Sir, that our Budget is, probably, the most iniquitous, vertically as well as horizontally, than of any other developed country. Let me just ask one question of the hon. Finance Minister, through you, Sir, and also through the Minister of State for Finance: Is it true that in the income-tax system of India, a person can have an income of Rs.10 crores, per month, from some source, and is fully tax exempted? Is it true? Another person, say, a public servant, who has an income of Rs.25,000/-, per month, will have a tax deduction at source of, at least, 15 per cent. Sir, I am giving you a contrast of a tax system where Rs.10 crores of income from some source can be tax exempted, but public servant having an income Rs.25,000/- per month, would have to pay a TDS of 15 per cent at least. Now, I want the Finance Minister and the Minister of State, in their reply, to say whether it is correct or not. What I mean to say is, there can be a defence why we have to do it, but that is not equity. Similarly, you take the corporate sector. Is it correct--and they can look at it -- for a corporation to earn a profit of Rs.1,000 crores and legally pay no tax except the MAT of 10 per cent while another medium scale firm with Rs.10 lakhs of income would have to pay--I am just giving you an instance a tax of 20 per cent or 25 per cent?

Are these two extremes possible in our country or not? I think, you will find that they are. There is a system which creates this. Why don't we treat individuals with the same income in the same way? That is equity.

Sir, another point is about Capital Expenditure and Revenue Expenditure. Due to paucity of time and since you have asked me to conclude, I am just finishing. The Capital Expenditure and Revenue Expenditure are very crucial issues. I have suggested to the hon. Finance Minister in the Consultative Committee that this whole distinction between Plan and non-Plan has become archaic. Seventy-five per cent of the Plan expenditure is Revenue Expenditure. Out of non-Plan expenditure, 12-13 per cent is Capital Expenditure. Now, the Finance Minister has also said, somewhere in one of his interviews, that there is no problem in having Revenue Expenditure, provided it does good things like paying for teacher

or mid-day meals in schools. But how do you build roads, how do you build infrastructure, unless you have Capital Expenditure? So, as regards the distribution of the resources and their more efficient use, it is absolutely essential, in my view, to increase Capital Expenditure and contain Revenue Expenditure. With these remarks I conclude and thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIAN): Thank you, Dr. Bimal Jalan. Now, Dr. Kasturirangan. Please be brief.

DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN (Nominated): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, for giving me this opportunity. I am a little out of the way, I understand.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN): I hope, therefore, you will make a very brief speech.

DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Sir, I want to make only a brief statement. I don't think I am known to make long statements.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN): Yes, I know that.

DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Sir, first of all, I would like to congratulate the Finance Minister for presenting a good Budget and to me it is a question of a couple of indices like 8.1 per cent GDP growth and 9.4 per cent growth in the manufacturing sector. But specifically focussing on science and technology, of course, there is sustainable growth in science and technology funding. We have witnessed this year also a growth rate of 15-20 per cent. One can see the growth in the funding for science and technology. But what is crucial to recognise, in this connection, is that when the GDP growth is expected to be 8.1 per cent, if one looks at the corresponding growth of funding, as a percentage of GDP, normally, it had gone up by almost 1-1.1 per cent some years ago. Now, it is more like 0.65 per cent. Of course, there is no contradiction, considering the size of overall GDP. The absolute value being what it is, there will be a massive infusion of funds into science and technology. Absorbing this is one of the biggest things.

But there is another character in terms of funding science and technology in this country. Currently 30 per cent comes from the industrial sector and 70 per cent comes from the Governmental sector. In most of the countries, today, which have some significant science and technology

programmes, virtually 60-70 per cent comes from the industry and the Government contributes 30-40 per cent. So, there is a need to look at this and to have a phased way of infusing increased funds from the industry into the R & D sector, specifically tuned to make the industrial growth and the products coming out of it more innovative. This is one part of it.

The second point which I would like to make is regarding the gross imbalance in science and technology growth in different States. Today, if one looks at the socio-economic growth of different States and at the corresponding science and technology activities of the States, one can see that there is a correlation which is significant. Obviously, there is a need to review the current status of science and technology in different States of the country, to strengthen the mechanisms of funding and to strengthen the mechanisms of performance. I think, there is an urgency to do it and there is a need to bring in some kind of a sense of seriousness into this.

The third point, which was sometime earlier considered, is to see how we can make the other Departments of the Government also to fund science and technology. In fact, there are several Departments of the Government which are outside the regular Scientific Departments and which have been the beneficiaries of science and technology like the Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Petroleum, Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Rural Development and so on. The point is whether the Finance Ministry can make a suggestion, as was done in the case of North-East that every Department should earmark 10 per cent for the development of North East; that each Department should earmark one per cent of its total Budget for science and technology. Of course, if they are not able to absorb that amount of money within their own system, one could have a re-appropriation mechanism somewhere in the middle of that particular financial year to see how the same can be diverted. But it will bring in a sense of seriousness in these Departments with regard to the provision of money for science and technology.

The second major point I would like to make, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, is that last year the Finance Minister started a new initiative, an innovative one, to identify an institution for a selective funding and this institution has to have the potential of becoming a world-class institute. In this connection, last year, the Finance Minister had chosen the Indian Institute of Science. It is gratifying to note that the Institute has used this particular money. They are planning to set up an excellent infrastructure for research in areas like life sciences, nano sciences and so on and also

trying to create world-class infrastructure where the international scholars can come and stay and spend considerable time interacting with the Institute's academic staff. So, this is a very innovative thing. I am sure, the expectations that the Finance Minister and the Government have after infusing this kind of a fund, certainly, this Institute will live up to their expectations. This year, interestingly, the Finance Minister has chosen three oldest universities in the country, the Mumbai University, the Kolkata University and the Chennai University to support them on similar lines by giving Rs. 50 crores each. Again it is a very laudable thing considering the fact that they are the oldest universities; they have created several distinguished persons in the country. But what is important when it comes to university funding is the effectiveness of funding with respect to improving the research and development environment, which has certainly been a matter of serious concern. Here, there is an absolute need to look at the current pattern of working of the universities; the questions of infrastructure; the issues of having good research workers who are also educationists and ultimately a culture of working towards a good educational system in a research environment or a research environment in which there is an educational system. I think this is something that needs to be taken note of because this is the first test-case of universities being funded out of way in this manner. There is the M.M. Sharma report which has recently been submitted to the Government to look at how to strengthen the science and technology research in universities. I feel this report has to be brought to bear on these three universities and the results should be reviewed on an annual basis so that further step up of funding for these institutions and also for the future ones.

Another important point I would like to make is regarding the present situation with regard to Mathematics. We have held a lot of discussions among the scientific community. There is a very strong feeling that Mathematics need to be recognised, supported, expanded and strengthened. In this connection, I would like to suggest the Finance Minister to earmark something like Rs. 10 crores, as a token, on the pattern of what he did as mentioned earlier. Nearly, 12 institutions in this country are worthy of being funded with this kind of money to start with. But it could be increased much more as we see the results in the coming years. If you look at the number of quality PhDs which come out annually, it is not more than 100 in a country of more than a billion people. Obviously, in Mathematics we have very strong traditions and our intellectual heritage being what it is, certainly it is an area which needs to be supported.

I appeal to the Finance Minister, as a token, should earmark, this year, at least, a few crores of rupees as a support and as a kind of attention that the Government is going to pay to improve the Mathematical education and research in the country.

The third aspect I would like to mention here is with regard to I have been championing this in this august forum also -- setting up of an Aeronautics Commission. Currently, if one looks at the aeronautics activities in this country, it has really moved over the last 50 years. We have built 23 types of aircraft at the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., the premier institution for aeronautics. We have 11 Indian designs, and today we have some of the best helicopters that have been built, like the advanced light helicopter and also a supersonic fighter aircraft, the LCA. If one looks at the base, the capability, the industrial base as well as the human resource, they certainly are the reasons to be proud of; but we do not have a formal mechanism. It is no longer technology limited, but it is policy limited. There is a need to bring in a focus on the policy related to the aeronautical activities in the country. My suggestion is, to constitute an Aeronautics Commission. Besides developing policies, directions, activities and things of that kind, this Commission shall also undertake a flagship aircraft design for the country, a 100 to 150 seater aircraft which will become a key programme of this Commission. It may be something like an outlay of Rs. 2,000 crores in the next five years, which is something which the Finance Ministry may look at. But the equally important aspect is -- this we have been discussing in our major contract offsets -- offsets to the tune of 30 per cent which comes to Rs. 30,000 crores in 6 to 10 years. There will be a possibility of substantially high technology products from this country being sold to U.S and Europe if we make use of this offset arrangement. These kind of initiatives like an Aeronautics Commission, evolving policies, providing impetus to the activities, or, even ensuring that we make a meaningful utilisation of such arrangements that would be there when we go for big purchases in areas like aircraft will, certainly, go a long way in major development in this field.

Sir, my next point is this. There has been a provision of Rs.100 crores for the Punjab Agricultural University, which, I think, is a very important step, and also recognition of agricultural research in this country, which has done much to usher in the Green Revolution. There are, at least, three major initiatives this year that we see in this area. One is, of course, the National Agriculture Innovation Project. The second is, the Indo-U.S.

launching the Knowledge Initiative on Agriculture. The third one is the provision of Rs.100 crores for the Agricultural University. In one sense, they are not isolated; they are linked, and I feel that there are a needed to step up agriculture research. We are talking of our production, as our previous Finance Minister has been saying, hovering between 200-210 million tonnes, and we are talking of 400 million tonnes in the next 20 years. There is a considerable amount of research needed -- genetically modified crops, health implications, environmental implications, economics implications, yield and diversity implications. So we need a solid base of research with a directed programme, and I am sure that this kind of support will go a long way in supporting an area which has been the mainstay of this country's economy. On the whole, I feel that there is a tremendous scope. Money has never been a constraint in the growth of Science and Technology in the country. But I feel there is much to be done to make India a truly science and technology power, and I hope, these and similar initiatives, these gestures, will, certainly, go a long way in taking us where we should be.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा) : बेसिक साइंस के लिए, नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ साइंस के लिए थोड़ा पैसा तो दे दीजिए। नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ साइंस, भुवनेश्वर में प्रपोज़ किया गया था, उसके लिए थोड़ा पैसा तो दे दीजिए ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN): Dr. K. Malaisamy.

DR. K. MALAISAMY (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I thank you for permitting me speak on behalf of the AIADMK.

Sir, it is my proud privilege to speak on this very important subject, namely, the General Budget, on which several Members have spoken. Budget is a pivotal axis around which the entire Government revolves. As a student of Economics, I have been taught even in those days that Budget is not merely a Statement of Receipts and Expenditure; on the other hand, it is the policy of the Government reflecting the economic and social lives of the entire country.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI) in the Chair.]

While preparing the Budget, the person, who is involved in the preparation, has to apply certain standards and parameters. Normally the Budget would contain the incidence of taxation, resource mobilisation, rationalisation and simplification of procedures, giving certain reliefs, incentives, etc. These are the features which are generally found in a Budget. Sir, while preparing the Budget, one should be concerned with the ground realities and the

aspirations, the future aspirations of the people and other requirements. With this idea in mind, they have to prepare the Budget. It is most unfortunate and disheartening to note that even after 58 years of Independence, our country is subject to a number of inherent and major problems. Sir, we are told that one-third of world's poor are in India. More than one-third of India's population, nearly 35 crores, live below the poverty line. More than fifty lakh people are unemployed. Employment in the agricultural sector has been declining year after year. We have been constantly facing problems on the security front; there have been regular challenges to our unity. Not only that, globalisation and liberalisation have also posed a threat to certain products of Indian origin. Sir, frequent changes take place in Governments with the result one Government people do not see eye to eye with other. Whatever is done by a previous Government is attempted to be undone by succeeding Governments with differing views. Another compulsion is coalition. Many times, coalition Governments have to make adjustments here and there. They cannot afford to be objective. Above all, ensuing elections are also one of the important factors which have a bearing on the preparation of the Budget. With these factors in view, what I am trying to observe is, objectivity and fairness are very difficult. Not only that, adhocism and political expediency is resorted to while preparing the Budget. Every Government says that it is doing its best. We have seen several Budgets over the years. Every Government says that it is their best Budget. It is like an advertisement on television in which everyone says, "Best *Kanna* Best!"

Sir, year after year, outlays have been increasing and resources have been increasing. Greater and more allocations are given. Greater and more expenditure is being incurred. Every year, there is a jump in figures. What I am trying to say is that, irrespective of the fact whatever Government or whichever party Governmenet may be presenting the Budget, the contents of each Budget are almost the same. The language may be different. Or, the format may be different. Whether it is fiscal deficit, poverty alleviation, infrastructure or unemployment which are the major problems of the country, right from the year 1995-96 when Dr. Manmohan Singhji was the Finance Minister, till date upto 1996-97. Mr. Chidambaram the Finance Minister, they all speak with one voice in identifying the vital problems and seeking solutions. But their tones may be different. Their languages may be different. The fact remains that problems subsist.

Coming to the present Budget, it has been hailed as an outstanding Budget on the one side and wailed on the other. Shrimati Karat has pointed out many things. Sir, I want to comment on the Budget as an objective person. I feel that there are certain plus and more minus aspects. To illustrate my point, let me quote a couplet from Thirukkural, of the famous Thiruvalluvar. (The hon. Member spoke in Tamil). KUNAMNADI KUTRAMNADI AVATRUL MIKAINADI, MIKKA KOLAL It means, take the pluses and minuses and weigh both of them; whichever is higher, that should be the basis for arriving at a conclusion. This is what told in Thirukkural about which Hon'le Finance Minister is familiar and closer. That is why I quoted Thirukkural.

Sir, coming to the present Budget, it has been well drafted by the bureaucrats and the Finance Minister has given a nice touch to it with his word power and vocabulary. When I read this 13,000-words-text, what I am able to see that, many times, he has been very cautious and silent on certain very important areas. Wherever there is a possibility of causing some problem, he has silently avoided it. On this, I am reminded of a famous saying of a Parliamentarian and leading journalist: "A clever politician is one who throws umpteen promises left and right and when it is found unimplemented, he must be able to explain why they have not been implemented." i.e. Throw a number of promises and explain later why not implemented. I do not know whether our Finance Minister is an exception or he goes with it.

Coming to the Budget proper, after having heard the arguments of Mrs. Karat and many of my friends who spoke earlier, my job is pretty easier. My first and foremost highlight is, before the preparation or presentation of the Budget, two documents are given; namely, the President's Address in the Joint Session and the Economic Survey Report. These are the two papers which precede the Budget document. Sir, all these three, I thought, would go together, but I could see that there is a departure, or disconnection between the Economic Survey, the President's Address on the one side and the present Budget on the other. I would take a couple of minutes on that, Sir. Whatever the President has said in his Address, there is no financial allocation to that agenda. Secondly, the Economic Survey has addressed to the fact that there should be a system to deliver the goods and as to how the reform should be made. But the Budget is totally silent on that. Enough emphasis has been given on the infrastructure projects. But the Budget is silent on that. As per the

Economic Survey, there is a need for private and public partnership in infrastructure projects. But the Budget does not speak anything about it.

Again, the Economic Survey talks about the labour rigidity and the possibility of jobless growth all around. But the Budget does not speak anything on that. The Economic Survey speaks about 50 billion dollars of FDI in five years, but the Budget is silent on that. Coming to the farmers' problems. Of course, the Budget has touched some part of the farmers' problem, a fringe of the farmers' problems, namely, credit. But there are umpteen other areas as far as farmers are concerned, like economic price for their produce, use of fertilisers, improvement in their yield, infrastructure development for irrigation, etc. Umpteen areas are required to be addressed but Budget has chosen only one area, the credit area. Will it be enough? " YANKI, PASIKKI, CHOLAI PORI"

I am again reminded of a Tamil couplet. Which means you are giving a peanut for a hungry elephant. How would it be enough? This is what I want to say. Even as per the NSS Survey, we are given to understand that 51 per cent of the small farmers are not getting credit. This is the reality of the situation.

Sir, coming to the next point, which I want to highlight, is that a hike has been given to various schemes. It is most welcome but the experience is that from the last year's Budget, that 60 per cent of utilisation alone is done. You are giving 100 per cent allocation but you are able to do only 60 per cent. What is wrong with the system, what is wrong with the human power? I mean there is something wrong somewhere. Sir, Poojaryji has said that they have got a great political will. If so have they got the skill to execute? This is my point. Here it is not available. When you say so many allocations, but you are not able to spend. Where is your skill to execute?

Coming to a very important aspect of the Budget Speech of the hon. Finance Minister, he has said what cannot be done or what is not true. When I illustrate, you will appreciate how he has said a particular thing which is not implementable or which is not true. Sir, he has said that only 4 per cent of the projects in road works will remain incomplete. This is the statement of the Finance Minister. Sir, we are told from other statistics that 23 per cent of land acquisition is still pending. Hon. Minister for Road Transport and National Highways is here and he may be able to explain easily. But from records I am able to see that the projects are pending for

want of land acquisition to the extent of 23 per cent. If that be the case, how could there be only 4 per cent projects yet to be completed? This is something basically wrong.

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAY (SHRI T.R. BAALU): It is 34 per cent as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned. It is not 23 per cent.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, he has said in the Budget that that inflation is under check; it is low. But in reality it is not at all true because the price rise on various commodities is not at all being passed on and the real impact has not been taken into account. Not only that, pressure on interest rate is also there. Thirdly, the Service Tax, which has been levied, will also jack up the inflation. Fourthly, Sir, the liquidity crunch is there. As told by one of our friends, industrial production is coming down. When compared to last year, it is much less. Increase of MAT and abolition of section 10 (23) (9) of Income Tax will increase inflation. So, what I am trying to say is that these are the factors, which are instrumental in the increase of inflation. But how has the Finance Minister come to the conclusion that inflation can be kept under check? I have got big doubt on that. Sir, he has not spoken anything about the incidence of petroleum price hike in the world market, whether it is here or not; he has saliently avoided it, and wherever there will be some adverse criticism, he has nicely avoided it. Sir, 4 per cent Education Cess has been levied. The concept is that it should passed on for the benefit of students. But it was not done so. On the other hand, it has been diverted elsewhere. What I am trying to say is that there is a big gap between the practice and precept. This is my point. Though it is said that it is a pro-poor, people-friendly Budget and all. It is only a jargon but on ground reality it is not so. Sir, you may agree with me that the Budget is not at all concerned to serve the common people. I say so because the wholesale price has been increasing from 3.1 per cent to 4 per cent. The electricity growth rate is decreasing. Again in coal, mines and cement, the growth rate is also decreasing. But our hon. Minister is very nice, kind enough to the car manufacturers and soft drink manufacturers. These are the people who have been given patronage whereas the poor people have been neglected. This is my point. A very important point is that he has said that 20,000 water bodies will be constructed, will be installed in villages. It means one water body will serve the requirement of thirty villages. Then again, coming to another aspect, 8.7 lakh houses will be built over one year and it works out to be two

houses for each village serve people. Sir, I am trying to ask how one water body for thirty villages, two houses in each village. Again, you are touching the fringe of the problem. You are not solving the problem. Sir, coming to another important aspect the Finance Minister and the others would be well aware that the brick chamber industry is a very, very labour- intensive rural industry. It is very, very popular in Tamil Nadu. Nearly about 50 lakh people are employed. More than 200 brick chambers are available in Tamil Nadu. It is concentrated more in Ramnad, Sivaganga, Madurai District etc. Now, 16 per cent levy and excise duty has been imposed on this industry, with the result that many of the chamber owners are likely to close down and throw away the employees from employment. With the result this will cause a serious problem. It has to be taken care of. Sir, another most important point which I want to highlight is the great injustice done by this Budget to the small scale sector.

Sir, we know, the entire House knows, in terms of industrial production, in terms of export, in terms of economy, employment, the small scale sector plays a very vital role and in the recent Question Hour it has been said that nearly, about 39 per cent of the industries under small scale industries have been closed down due to sickness, etc. When the situation is like this, the Budget has attempted to de-reserve certain products of the small scale sector with the result sufferings or handicap will be further added. Sir, something has to be done on that. Sir, another point, which would be interesting to note, is that it is estimated that an amount of Rs. 13.41 lakh crores of black money is hidden in the country. When so much of money is available, by way of black money, what is the measure, what are the ways that have been suggested by the Finance Minister to unearth such ill-gotten money. It is totally silent.

Regarding State resources, Mrs. Karat also spoke, I want to highlight that the State resources are very much affected by low allocation of funds from the divisible pool of the Central Tax. When there is a huge resource increase, as far as Central Government is concerned, the Central Plan allocation for the States has been reduced. When you are increasing your resources proportionately, there should be an increase to the State allocation also. But you are working *vice-versa*. Lastly, Sir, the LPG has been re-classified under the Central Sales Tax. With the result there has been a great loss of revenue for the State. How are you going to compensate that loss also?

Sir, the Service Tax contributes to a great extent without any Government's patronage, but they need investment, they need FDI to grow further and further. They are discouraged very much because of the levies like your taxation policy on MAT, VAT as well as, fringe benefit tax. What are you going to do on that?

On the external side also the foreign exchange is coming down drastically, particularly during the last year. What are you going to do on that also? What I am trying to say here is that what is talked by the Hon'ble Finance Minister is not going to be implemented. At the same time, what is being aimed at towards the poor people also is not going to be done. If I criticise they may view it in a different angle. But, their own allies, CPI and CPI (M) are criticizing, then what is your reaction?

Sir, coming to the final point about which I am very much concerned is the great injustice done by the Central Government to the States, particularly to Tamil Nadu. The first and foremost point I would like to tell you is that last year the allocation under Tsunami was Rs. 10,000 crores by the Central Government. Out of this, only Rs. 950 crores was spent. Whereas, the Government of Tamil Nadu, after having seen the highest on-slot of Tsunami, had sent a proposal asking for Rs. 10,000 crores. Out which only Rs. 1,000 crores was given. So, this is the fact of the situation. We have, after Tsunami, had the unprecedented floods. There again, in terms of extensive damage and loss of life, etc., we had sent a proposal for Rs. 13,658 and-odd-crores. Whereas, the Government has given around Rs. 800 crores only. This is how meagre allocation made by the Central Government to the States.

Now, I come to the famous desalination plant. The hon. Vice-Chairman is very much aware about the city of Chennai which has undergone an unprecedented water scarcity a few months ago, before Tsunami and floods. Out of the total requirement, nearly 50 per cent of water requirement was solved through crisis management, not temporarily but permanently, by drawing water from Veeranam. With the result, 50 per cent requirement of water is assured. Another 50 per cent has to be assured permanently. Madam Jayalalitha, the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, who is a mass leader, a magnificent leader, a marvellous leader, a field leader, a fearless leader and a famous leader, took the initiative to the extent of going in for a permanent remedy, namely desalination plant...*(Interruptions)*...

5.00 p.m.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, so much praise for the Chief Minister! ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA (Tamil Nadu): She will become the Prime Minister Maybe...*(Interruptions)*...Who knows?...*(Interruptions)*... She is going to become the Prime Minster...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Tamil Nadu): You wait and see...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Where does the Finance Bill come here? Mr. Malaisamy, please continue.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, today I am lucky that Mr. Narayanasamy is not here. Otherwise, he will interrupt at each and every word.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir:.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Mr. Jairam Ramesh has forgotten that he has become a Minister now.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: The project has been taken up with all seriousness. Now, it is being sent to the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests for environmental clearance. All proposals have been sent. For sundry queries, papers are dashing here and there. Sir, you know about the bureaucrats. If they have been asked to put a query, they nicely put it. If they want to clear, they clear. But, some how or the other, it is pending before the Central Government. I don't know. How a project meant for public has to wait for so long for clearance. It should be given immediately. This is my point.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Mr. Malaisamy, for your final points, you have one minute left.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, this is part one, two and three of my last point. Again, I come to another project. Here also, again, it is the question of environmental clearance. Our State Government gone up to the Supreme Court to get a clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests for a hydel project, not for anything else. Again, the court has to interfere and do it.

SHRI T.R. BALU: Sir, there is an order of the Supreme Court, dated 12.12.96, forbidding the State of Tamil Nadu from cutting any trees. Unless specific orders are given by the Supreme Court...(*Interruptions*) So, Dr. Malaisamy has misinformed the House. ...(*Interruptions*)... He is misleading the House. ...(*Interruptions*)... Let us have a separate debate on this issue, Sir. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Nothing is going on record. (Interruptions) Nothing is going on record. ...(*Interruptions*)... You can clarify your point when your chance comes. ...(*Interruptions*)... Dr. Malaisamy, please carry on. ...(*Interruptions*)... Mr. Balu, please sit down. (Interruptions) Mr. Malaisamy, please carry on. ...(*Interruptions*)... Mr. Balu, I request you not to interrupt. ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, whatever I am trying to submit to the hon. House is...(*Interruptions*)... Whatever I talk, I talk with authority. I am subject to verification by any quarters. I am willing for a debate on how Tamil Nadu has been neglected, how injustice has been done by a few Ministers, particularly from the Union Government. ...(*Interruptions*)... I don't want to dilate more. ...(*Interruptions*)... It is on record.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: *

SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: *

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): I think, we have had enough of cross talking. I request all the hon. Members not to disturb now,...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, coming to the forest and environment clearance, to be given by the Central Government, they have refused it in the case of the hydel project; they are delaying it in the case of desalination plant, but, at the same time,...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): No cross talking please. ...(*Interruptions*)... I will not allow it. Enough is enough. ...(*Interruptions*)... Mr. Malaisamy, please continue. ...(*Interruptions*)... No, enough is enough. This can't go ahead. ...(*Interruptions*)... Mr. Malaisamy, please conclude.

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* Not recorded.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Okay, Sir. I will take just two or three minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Two or three minutes! You have already taken so much time. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, the time taken by the interruptions has to be deducted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Please conclude Mr. Malaisamy.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, we are very much keen on environmental clearance. But they have taken so many exceptions. Take, for example, the Sethu Samudram Project should also go for environmental clearance. We are not against the project, but the way it was done in all speed and hasty...*(Interruptions)*... They did not care for environmental clearance. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Nothing else, except Dr. Malaisamy, will go on record.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Environmental clearance was very much needed there also. There were many objections from experts. Environmental clearance has not been obtained, but that project is going on. They can do what they want. But what the State Government wants to do is being prevented. This is the sum and substance of my argument.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Thank you very much, Dr. Malaisamy.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: There are umpteen numbers of important areas where the Central Government can do wonders. For example, the *Katchatheevu* issue, where the fishermen are being arrested and taken into custody everyday. Why don't you do something in this regard? Instead of doing that you are concentrating on minor matters. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, at the end, let me ask question, what is the...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Mr. Narayanasamy, please don't interrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: What will be your policy initiative, as far as the State Governments are concerned, who are not seeing eye to eye with you? What is your policy? This is my first question. Can you afford to be

fair and equitable in your approach? This is my second question. My third point is this. I ask Mr. Poojaryji whether your political will be , followed by the skill to execute. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI M.P. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI (Kerala): Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. Sir, I am here to support the Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister. This is a budget, which has been welcomed throughout the country. It is a budget which has come as a relief to the weaker and the backward sections of our society. Sir, a budget is more than an annual parliamentary repetition. It is the work plan of the Government, and it reflects the decision making process at the Governmental level. So, Sir, with regard to the present Budget we have to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister and the competent Finance Minister for bringing such a Budget, which has come as a relief and which has not put any burden on any section of our society. Sir, this Budget, actually, represents the vision of the UPA Government. The speciality of the present Budget is that it has given consideration to some of the major areas which were ignored till this date. For example, Sir, education has been given due importance. The area of agriculture has also been given importance. One very noteworthy aspect and dimension of the Budget is that it has taken into consideration the people living in the rural areas. Sir, these are the positive and progressive dimensions of our Budget.

Sir, consideration given to children and the weaker sections has also to be welcomed. Sir, the allocation given to the progress, welfare and growth of the universities. and attention paid to the academic scenario of the country also represents one of the cardinal and very notable aspects of our Budget.

Sir, the consideration and the help accorded to the old-age people is being welcomed throughout the country. It has been described as a very progressive step taken by the Government. But, Sir, I have to add certain things which are related with old people and are listed in the list of those materials whose prices will increase. For example, prices of commodities like walking stick, spectacles, umbrellas, etc. will be going high. We can very well understand that these are very much related with the old people, though it has some relation with other sections also. So, Sir, I think, these kinds of deficiencies will be taken into consideration by the hon. Finance Minister.

Sir, the hon. Finance Minister's decision, and the decision of the Government to assist the Gandhian institutions of the country is a very important step taken by the Government. Sir, many of the Gandhian institutions established to spread the message of the Father of the Nation were in a pathetic condition. For example, there are two or three major Gandhian institutions in the country and it is our duty, it is the duty of the Government, and of the country to protect these institutions which stand for the spread of the great message given by the Father of the Nation. I take it as a very historical step taken by the UPA Government, and the hon. Finance Minister. They have this willingness to help and assist the growth of these Gandhian institutions. As regards the other things, for example, declaration of celebrating the 150th anniversary of the First War of Independence, 1857, that will strengthen the national fervour, that will be enabling us to remember our past, especially, our struggle for freedom and for the renaissance of our national ethos, our secular credentials, represented by the struggle for freedom. Sir, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of First War of Independence, of 1857, the allocation given is, no doubt, a national step taken by the Government. Sir, the importance of this Budget is that it has not suggested any new tax. No new tax has been imposed. No burden. So, that itself is sufficient to consider this Budget as a positive step on the path of solving problems faced by the weaker sections, and also towards addressing our national deficiencies with regard to economy. Sir, that this Budget has been named as a 'Ten per centage growth", and that there is no new tax suggestion is, really, very notable. Sir, certain other decisions are there which, I think, are to be given more importance. For example, cigarette has been included in the list of those things, the prices of which will be increased. I think that is very good. That is a healthy suggestion on the part of the Government. Even now, there is a widespread aversion among the youth with regard to cigarette. This step taken by the Government will contribute more to the non-smoking. Smoking has been considered as a great hindrance to the protection of the standards of our health. Then, Sir, consideration that is given to the AIDS and cancer patients in this Budget is very important. In our country, cancer is now spreading in a very drastic manner. That has to be dealt with seriously. AIDS also need to be dealt with seriously. The medicines which are being used by the AIDS and cancer patients have been included in the list of medicines, prices of which would decrease. So, that would, definitely, help those patients, especially, those patients belonging to very weaker sections, that is who are BPL. This Budgetary suggestion by

the Government will, definitely, be helping them. Sir, I have to congratulate the Government, again, for the allocation that has been provided for the education of minorities in the country. The present Government has taken very positive steps, historical steps to address the problems faced by the minorities. Minorities are very weak in the country. That is an established fact. Many reports are there, judicial reports are there, governmental agencies' reports are there, which speak volumes of the weakness or backwardness of minorities with regard to education, with regard to social life, with regard to economical conditions, almost, in every sphere of life. So, Sir, it is the national duty of the Government to take forward these weaker sections, whether it is minorities, whether it is *dalits*, whether it is any other weaker section. But to call it a kind of appeasement, is a political slogan which is losing its relevance day by day. Because, we are able to understand that the Government has got a duty to take every section -- whether it is minorities, Scheduled Castes --of the nation into progress....*(Interruptions)*.. Sir, I am here just to remind all the hon. Members, belonging to this party or that party, that we have to see these things, cutting across our political lines.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): And, I have to remind you about your time.

SHRI M.P. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI: Sir, I am very much aware of that. I will conclude in two, three minutes. Sir, I have to here congratulate the hon. Finance Minister, the Government for presenting this Budget. One of the notable features of the present Budget is the care that has been there towards agricultural area, rural area. Sir, agriculture is the backbone of our economy. That has to be acknowledged. Whatever may be the progresses in the other areas, we can't do away with agriculture. Agriculture is very important for India, and it will continue to be important. But, Sir, due to many economical trends in the international scenario, our agricultural products are facing a number of problems. Our farmers are actually facing great trials and tribulations. Some of them are even compelled to commit suicides. All these things are known to us. As regards my State, Kerala, I have to mention here, our agricultural products, for example, pepper, tea, coffee, cardamom, vanilla, especially, coconut -- Keralam, Kera means coconut; even the very name 'Keralam' is related with coconut -- are facing many problems. Without coconut, Kerala has no existence. But, during the last few years, our economy has been very much influenced by the contributions made by our NRIs. But, basically, Kerala's

economy is very much linked with the agriculture. So, while supporting all the steps taken by the Government, once again, I would like to request the Government to take some forward steps to control the grant of import licences. Only that will help to protect the interests of our agricultural economy.

Sir, apart from that, I would like to add that our present Budget, which has taken all areas into consideration, has almost ignored the area of the NRIs. It is a major part of our society and, Sir, in many parts of the country, the contributions made by the NRIs are great. There are many economic problems and they have to be taken into consideration. Sir, I am concluding. With regard to weaker sections, I would like to say that we have to help them to lead a normal life. It is the duty of the Government. There is a couplet :

"ज़िंदगी उसकी है, जो उसे झेल ले,
सबको देती नहीं आसरा ज़िंदगी।"

So, the Budget is meant for those people who have no shelter, who have no asylum. It is the duty of the Government to provide some kind of a shelter for them, and, I believe, the Budget is meant for that.

Sir, my final request here is that every year when the Budget is prepared by the Government, by the Finance Minister, they conduct discussions with the industrialists, with the experts on economy. My request is that the discussions are to be conducted with the common people, with representatives of the common people, with the farmers and other sections of the society, who will also be affected by this Budget.

Anyway, Sir, I am, once again, thanking you for giving me this opportunity and congratulating the Government, the UPA Government, for this great Budget. It is a great Budget. Whatever may be the political differences that are raised by others, this is a Budget which is welcomed all over the country, this is a Budget which provides relief to the weaker sections. I think, the UPA Government, by implementing the promises given in this Budget, will be able to solve many problems faced by our economy.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I am unable to accept these proposals, and I am unable to concur with the views expressed by my good friend, Mr. Samadani. He says that it is a great Budget. Sir, this is neither pro-poor, nor pro-farmer. It will not help

the people who are living in the rural areas in improving their living conditions. Sir, the Budgetary allocations made for health, education and agriculture are marginally increased, which are not at all sufficient to meet the growing demands.

Sir, the Government is claiming that the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is a historical one. Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House regarding their announcement during the NCMP, the National Common Minimum Programme. It is a document of the post-poll alliance. It is not a pre-poll alliance document. It is of the post-poll alliance, and it is a compulsion on the part of the majority party, the Congress Party, to accommodate the partners of UPA.

Sir, the opening sentence in the NCMP about employment says, "The UPA Government will immediately enact a National Employment Guarantee Act." You have completed more than twenty months in office. One-third of your tenure is over. One-third of your tenure is over and you have given this programme for only two hundred districts out of the total 600 districts. One-third of your tenure is over, you are covering only one-third of the country, and you are claiming that it is a historic figure!

Sir, there is the proposal for merging the *Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana* with the *National Food-for-Work Programme,* a historical programme. What does this mean? Earlier, we used to have the *National Food-for-Work Programme* for the entire country. Now, it is confined to 200 districts and the *National Food-for-Work Programme* and *Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana* have been merged. This clearly shows a different name has been given, while they say that it has got legal enforcement.

Sir, now, I come to the enrolment of job seekers in the villages. There was a programme in this regard. I come from Andhra Pradesh; we had an enrolment programme for labourers and job seekers from villages during December 2nd, 3rd and 4th. What happened was no publicity was given. Nobody knew about it. A few officers went to the villages and prepared lists sitting, naturally, in the houses of Ruling Party people. Take the case of my own district, Mahboobnagar, which is a most backward district according to the Government statistics. The enrolment was only to the extent of 1,42,000 workers. Sir, this clearly goes to show that this programme is going to be diluted; they are going to convert this programme into a Congress Party programme, or a programme meant for the Ruling Party people at the lower levels. Sir, I would like to request the Government

of India to have a thorough review of the very enrolment of the people in the rural areas.

Sir, the other programme, which they are claiming to be a new one, is the National Rural Health Mission. This programme, I agree, is a very ambitious programme. For the current year, they have allotted Rs. 9065 crores towards this programme. This programme covers eighteen States, but not even a single State from Southern India is included in this it. I don't know what happened to my friends from southern India in the Treasury Benches; they are not at all raising their voices against the non-inclusion of even one State from southern India. They say that they are all advanced States. Sir, are you going to punish the performing States? I don't mind the inclusion of other States; we should not have any objection for the inclusion of eighteen States in the programme. But why have the southern States been left out? Are you going to penalise them for doing something good, for having given good performance? This programme, with an allocation of Rs. 9000 crores for the current year, is an ambitious programme. You are going to spend Rs. 25,000 crores on this programme. Not even one State from southern India is included.

Sir, the hon. Minister hails from Tamil Nadu. He says that it is going to be implemented in phases and in due course of time, the southern States would also be included. Till such time, do you expect the people of southern India to wait for their turn for some allocation from the Government of India?

Sir, as I stated earlier, the allocation made for the Health sector, though marginally increased, is not at all sufficient. The killer diseases like Cancer and AIDS are growing. Take the instance of Andhra Pradesh. It is now rated second in the country. There was a question, Q. No. 186, which was answered by the hon. Minister in this august House. Under the *National AIDS Control Programme*, Rs. 20 crores were allocated to Andhra Pradesh during 2002-03, Rs. 17 crores in 2003-04 and Rs. 15 crores and 40 lakhs in 2004-05. They say that it is on the increase in Andhra Pradesh, but when it comes to allocation, it is on the decrease. What is the justification? On the other hand, the Government have not included Southern States in the National Rural Health Mission. It goes to show that there is a clear mismatch between the announcements by them and the allocations they have made. Sir, I want to remind the hon. Minister to look at the various allocations. The Finance Minister will not be having control over the minute allocations made to various Departments. But, he can have a review of the

money given to the various Departments. Sir, the small children in rural areas are suffering from heart diseases. We have a classic example of Hyderabad where thousands of small children marched towards the Secretariat crying for medical aid from the Chief Minister. Sir, this is the real problem in the rural areas. The allocation for the health sector is not according to the demands at the lower level. Population is increasing; diseases are increasing and the poverty is also on the increase. Regarding allocations, they claim that every time there is an increase in the percentage of allocation over the previous year's allocation. This is not the justifiable ground to claim some credit. I urge that a judicious act must be there on the part of the Finance Minister to see that proper allocations are made for those Ministries where the requirement is more, where the needs are more and where the sufferings of the people are more. The allocations to the National Illness Fund and the State Illness Fund have to be reviewed. Earlier, we used to get money from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund very easily. When NDA was in power, we used to send letters, and within one week, we used to get some relief for the poor people. Now, we are unable to understand the situation and the financial position at the Prime Minister's discretion. I don't know who is going to allocate that money also. I want that Prime Minister's Relief Fund, the National Illness Fund and State Illness Fund should be increased so as to help the poor people who approach the Government through the Members of Parliament or Members of Legislative Assemblies. Sir, the other Programme is Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Yojana. They are claiming that six institutions like AIIMS will be upgraded. I would like to know as to what happened to the earlier proposals of NIMS (Nizam Institute of Medical Sciences), SWIMS (Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences) of Andhra Pradesh or Tirupathi which are helping the poor people. The then Health Minister, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, was kind enough in allocating money for those institutions. Now, there is no mention of...

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): You are mentioning about the Southern States, please tell us also why there was no AIIMS type institute sanctioned during your period.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Mr. Reddy, you need not answer him. You kindly carry on with your speech.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: I would only request my good friend, Shri B.K. Hariprasad, to concentrate on my speech. I said that during NDA regime, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj was kind enough in giving

money to NIMS and SWIMS, and he did not hear it properly. Therefore, I request him to concentrate on what I am saying.

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: You just wanted to know why MPs from Southern States were keeping quiet. I want to know why you were keeping quiet then...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): In short, he is supporting you. Please, carry on.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, I want this alertness on the part of the Finance Minister also so that we can get some funds and allocation for our Southern States. Now, he is at a more elevated position. He is the General Secretary of AICC. He can prevail over the people. I compliment him for that.

Sir, next, I would like to talk about public distribution system. There is a news item, and we have put questions to the hon. Minister for Agriculture also regarding the move of the Government that they are going to reduce the quantity in all the schemes of public distribution. In Antyodya Anna Yojana, there is a proposal with the Government of India that they are going to reduce the quantity from 35 kgs to 30 kgs and from 25 kgs to 20 kgs while increasing the issue price. So what is the logic in this? We do not understand it. When NDA was in power, they were giving 35 kgs. under Antyodaya Anna Yojana, and, there was never a proposal with them to increase the issues price. Now, all of a sudden, they think that the quantity should be reduced. Do you want people to consume less and feed themselves with the meagre allocations, meagre quantities. Sir, there is no logic in reducing the quantity and increasing the issue price. I would like to know as to whether this is a welfare State or a profit-making company. Sir, as per our Constitution, it should not be like a company to see its profit or loss at the end of the day. I would like to prevail over the Finance Minister to see that such proposals are dropped in the initial stage only; otherwise there will be a doubt in the minds of the public, at the lowest level as to who are the real beneficiaries out of this programme.

Sir, another programme is Mid-day Meal Scheme. I appreciate the allocations made for this programme, which is Rs. 4,813 crores. As my senior and elder colleague Shri Yashwant Sinhaji said, we are contributing two per cent for this programme. Sir, twelve crore children are the beneficiaries under this scheme. I would like to request the Government to include the students of 8th, 9th and 10th also under this programme. Now,

this programme is confined to the students only up to 7th standard. I would like to request the Government to see that it is also given to the students of 8th, 9th and 10th also. There is a proposal with the Government of India to provide meals during the summer vacations in the drought affected and backward areas. My request is that it should be implemented throughout the country. During the summer vacations, it is very difficult for the students to go back to their houses because most of the parents keep going out of villages in search of the job, while leaving the children in the schools. So, I would request the Government to keep in view the hardships faced by the students at the lower level. Since, it is extended to the drought affected areas during the summer vacations also, it should be extended to all the areas. I would also request the Government to increase the money allocated per child so as to provide more nutritious meals to them.

Sir, as far as the girl child programme is concerned, it is a welcome gesture on the part of the Government to deposit Rs. 3,000/- in the name of every girl child when she passes the 8th class, which she can withdraw on attaining the age of 18 years. I would like to request the Government to concentrate on the falling sex ratio. Sir, the affluent States like Punjab, Haryana and Delhi are recording the girl child ratios, which are shockingly very, very low - 767 girls per 1000 boys. Sir, something urgent has to be done. We must take concrete steps and make stringent laws. Sir, the PNDT Act has also proved to be not of much use. We request the Government to come out with a special programme to protect the girl child. I would like to know the actual benefit that accrues to the girl child by virtue of this Rs. 3,000 rupees. After five years, she may get about four to five thousand rupees by virtue of the interest. This may not be of much use. I request the Government to have a fresh look at the programme and to increase the money under this scheme.

Sir, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are given about Rs. 880 crores for their welfare and scholarships. Sir, I have some information with me. The Government wanted to fill up the backlog vacancies with a special drive. Sir, the special drive of Government yielded results to the extent of 41.4 per cent of vacancies being filled up as far as SCs are concerned, and, 34.4 per cent as far as STs are concerned. This is by virtue of their special drive of two years. If this is the pace of work at the Government of India's level, when are the posts going to be filled and what will be the fate of those people who are working in the States?

Hence, I request the Government of India to have a special drive, both at the Central level and with a direction to the State Governments, to see that all the backlog vacancies are filled up at once.

Sir, there is no mention of the OBCs in the Budget. The entire section of the OBCs is totally omitted. No programme is there for OBCs. I do not know the attitude of the Government towards the OBCs. I hope, at least, at the time of reply, the hon. Finance Minister will explain the Government's stand on OBCs.

As regards the minorities' welfare, Sir, the allocations given are not in accordance with their population. The reservation problem is there. In some States, the reservation is given and it landed in courts. I want to know from the Government of India what is the policy of the Government as far as the minority reservation is concerned. Though my party is for reservation and since the matter is in courts, I want a national policy on this. I request the hon. Finance Minister to come out with a proposal and with the opinion of the Government of India, as far as minorities are concerned.

There is another problem, Sir. This august House passed the Bill to constitute Legislative Council for Andhra Pradesh saying that it was a unanimous Resolution of the Andhra Assembly and for that reason they are creating Legislative Council in Andhra Pradesh. I want to remind the Government that there are two other Resolutions from the Andhra Assembly. One is SC categorisation. It was a unanimous Resolution. Though the Resolution of Legislative Council was only a majority Resolution, the categorisation demand is pending since long in Andhra Pradesh. That Resolution has also come to the Government of India. The other one is IIT at Basara, Adilabad district of Andhra Pradesh. This is also a unanimous Resolution. That is also pending. I request that the request of Andhra Pradesh people and the Resolution of Andhra Assembly should be given importance. I demand that the Government of India should come forward to have an IIT at Basara in Adilabad district.

Sir, now I am coming to the most important subject of agriculture. We have provided all the information. I have given a document to this august House through the hon. Chairman and we had a debate during the last session about the farmers' suicide. Suicides are still continuing in Andhra Pradesh and in my neighbouring Maharashtra. Sir, the programmes of the Government of India and the programmes of the Government of

Andhra Pradesh are not helping the farmers at all. The Report of the Swaminathan Commission is with the Government. The Report says that agriculture credit given to the farmers is very, very low compared with the industrial sector. And, Sir, the interest rate, which is now announced by the Finance Minister, is to the extent of 7 per cent. Sir, we demanded and we have been demanding since long that the interest rate should be 4 per cent only. When we are able to get cars at 4 per cent at doorstep, why can not the farmers get at this rate? As a matter of fact, we have a vast area in agriculture and allied sectors. Why should not we have a separate budget for agriculture? Sir, the agriculture is the most neglected sector. Though they are giving a lot of money to the country and feeding the entire population, they are being neglected. They are at the mercy of monsoon. They are facing all sorts of difficulties in production, right from the seeds to the sale. There are no adequate godowns, no cold storages and the so-called minimum support price is not all helpful. I demand that there should be a minimum guarantee price for farmers, not the minimum support price. There should be a minimum guarantee price for the farmers. The insurance scheme, which is said to be a national agriculture insurance scheme, is not at all helpful to the farmers. The only sweeping sentence made by the Finance Minister is, "The National Agriculture Insurance Scheme will be continued in the same format". Sir, it is not at all useful. We had a debate on this in this House. We wanted that small and marginal farmers should be brought into this insurance scheme, and, if possible, State and Central Government should contribute towards premium on behalf of the small and marginal farmers for claiming insurance and the village should be the unit. All these things are ignored by the hon. Finance Minister. I would like to prevail over the hon. Minster to see that the procedure is simplified and more farmers are brought into this national agriculture insurance scheme. Otherwise, it is going to be a paper scheme.

It is shocking to hear the hon. Finance Minister that he is going to tax the cooperative banks. Sir, they are helping the people, particularly the small and marginal farmers. As of now, we are giving very less percentage of loans to the small and marginal farmers. They are at the mercy of private moneylenders. We are not in a position to provide institutional credit to them. On the other hand, the small cooperative sector is being taxed. What is the logic in taxing cooperative banks? He has to explain it to the nation. The members of cooperative societies, who are taking loans from the cooperative banks, are now in a dilemma whether to approach the cooperative banks. Since it will be passed on to the borrowers who are

none else but small and marginal farmers. In view of the hardship being faced by the farming community, it is not wise on the part of the Government of India to levy tax on the cooperative banks. It will, definitely, be detrimental to the interest of farming community.

Sir, on number of occasions, we have demanded this issue. The percentage of loans given to the small and marginal farmers (*Time-bell*) is very, very low. It is shown here that it is being doubled in three years. These figures are always there, Sir. Bankers give money either to people who are influential or people who come to the bank with the help of influential persons. Though the hon. Finance Minister says that 50 lakh new farmers will be brought into the credit scheme, it is only on paper, Sir, nothing is on field. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to have a fresh look at the small and marginal farmers as far as agriculture credit is concerned.

The other point is regarding micro-irrigation. There was a mention of micro-irrigation in the National Common Minimum Programme also. But it appears that only Rs.200-odd crore are allocated for this. There is a Report of the Chandrababu Naidu Committee on this. It is popularly known as the Naidu Committee Report on Micro-Irrigation. I would request the Government to look at the report and having accepted it, try to implement the same, so as to help the farming community. This is my another request.

Sir, the other point is regarding textile sector. The other day I raised the issue of the plight of handloom weavers with the permission of hon. Chairman. Sir, regarding the State of Andhra Pradesh, there was a report from an organisation called CHIP. The Report says that in the State of Andhra Pradesh alone, 432 handloom weavers committed suicides during the last year. I have given the entire Report of that organisation to this august House.

Now I come to the programmes of the Government of India. Earlier we used to have 20 per cent rebate on handloom cloth during festivals. Period for that was 100 days in a year. Now, the rebate is reduced to 10 per cent and the period is reduced to 60 days. We used to have a Scheme of Janata Cloth. The Government of India used to give subsidy of 30 per cent and the State Governments 20 per cent. In all, there was 50 per cent subsidy on Janata Cloth. Now that scheme is disbanded.

The other programme of the Government of India is House-cum-workshed. They are giving Rs.40,000 per unit. Since prices of steel and cement are increased, the unit cost needs to be reviewed again. The unit cost of the IAY should also be increased.

As far as handloom weavers are concerned, there are 11 categories which are reserved for the handloom sector. But now nobody is bothered to earmark certain categories for the handloom weavers. Their plight was narrated to the hon. chairman through this august House. They came all the way from Andhra Pradesh walking 2400 Kms. Sir, this is the problem elsewhere in the country also. Hence, the Government of India is requested to have a special package for the handloom weavers. The other day, on my Special Mention on this, there was a reply by the hon. Minister and he said that he was going to constitute a high-power committee to go into the problems of handloom, weavers. Sir, the sooner it is constituted, the better. The number of suicides and hunger deaths of handloom weavers is alarming. Let there be a programme at the earliest.

Sir, the other point is on irrigation. Interlinking of rivers was a very good programme during the NDA regime. I don't know what happened to that programme. There is not even a word about interlinking of rivers in the Budget Speech. Mr. Suresh Prabhu had done a lot of good work. He went around the country and prepared an initial report. I don't know what happened to that programme. Nowadays, we used to have regular quarrels between neighbouring States. We have the latest problem of Babli project which is being constructed by Maharashtra Government. Yesterday, all the MPs of my State went to the hon. Minister and the Central Water Commission. Water disputes are on the increase. Disputes among neighbouring States are also on the increase. There is a problem of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu on the Cauvery waters. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am here to remind you, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... Karnataka is on the upper side.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

Sir, you are from Karnataka.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have to conclude.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, I will conclude. The problem of Almatti still remains. There is no solution. People are coming to Delhi, approaching the hon. Minister of Water Resources and going to CWC. There is no relief. The problems are on the increase and I request

that the Government of India promotes a policy on water, and the disputes are resolved at the earliest; otherwise, both the States are on war path and it is going to create a problem at the lowest level. The other aspect is, the funds provided by AIBP, by the Government of India through AIBP, to States like Andhra Pradesh are being misused. Sir, we have a problem in Andhra Pradesh. We have raised this issue in the Assembly. All the Opposition MLAs were thrown out of the Assembly; they were suspended for questioning the corruption in irrigation projects. ...*(Interruptions)*... As far as Karnataka, Maharashtra and Orissa are concerned, there are illegal projects and irregularities against the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. Corruption in irrigation projects is on the rampant. Sir, it is far alarming than Bofors scandal. This programme of corruption in Andhra Pradesh is being centralised and Rs.400 crores in one single project is being usurped. This was raised in the Assembly and people were thrown out of the Assembly.

Sir, as far as irrigation is concerned, once again, I request that the disputes should be resolved, at the earliest, at the Government of India level. Coming to the final subject, since I come from Andhra Pradesh, this being Council of States, in the Finance Minister's Budget speech, he has provided many programmes for States like Bihar, Punjab and districts like Tanjore and Thiruvananthapuram. They are given special programmes for universities and roads. But, nothing about Andhra Pradesh. What sin the State of Andhra Pradesh has committed? Sir, there is no specific programme for Andhra Pradesh. Once again, I reiterate that this Budget is neither pro-poor nor pro-farmer....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: ...and it will not help the rural poor. With these words, I thank you, Sir, for having given me this opportunity.

श्री कलराज मिश्र (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति जी, वर्ष 2006-07 के बजट पर, जो वित्त मंत्री जी ने प्रस्तुत किया है, बोलने का आपने मुझे अवसर दिया, इसके लिए आपको बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

मान्यवर, जिस तरीके से बजट पिछले वर्ष पेश किया गया था, उसके पूर्व में पेश किया गया था, उसी ढंग से इस बार भी प्रस्तुत किया गया है। यह पारंपरिक बजट है और इसे उसी ढंग से प्रस्तुत करने की कोशिश की गई है, जिसमें न तो किसी प्रकार के आर्थिक सुधार की तरफ यह बजट इंगित करता है और न ही जो करों का सरलीकरण है, उसकी तरफ ही लोगों का ध्यान आकर्षित करता है। सामान्य तौर पर बजट एक लेखाजोखा होता है कि क्या प्राप्तियां हुई हैं, क्या व्यय हुआ है, आगामी वर्ष में हम क्या व्यय करेंगे और प्राप्तियों का अनुमान हमारा

क्या होगा। इसके बारे में ही बजट प्रस्तुत किया जाता है और जो देश की प्राथमिकताएं होती हैं, उन प्राथमिकताओं को सामने रखकर उसके अनुरूप योजना और कार्यक्रम बनाकर धन का आवंटन होता है, मगर इस पूरे बजट को देखने के पश्चात मैं यह कह सकता हूँ कि जिन प्राथमिकताओं का निर्धारण होना चाहिए था, उन प्राथमिकताओं का निर्धारण इसमें नहीं है। उन प्राथमिकताओं का निर्धारण न होने के कारण यह लगता है कि जिस ढंग से बजट की एक सुनिश्चित और योग्य दिशा होनी चाहिए, वह दिखाई नहीं पड़ रही है। हमारे पूर्व वित्त मंत्री जी यहां पर विद्यमान हैं, इनके पूर्व श्री जसवन्त सिंह जी भी वित्त मंत्री थे, उन्होंने बजट के प्रारम्भ में ही प्राथमिकताओं को सुनिश्चित किया था कि हम बजट प्रस्तुत करने जा रहे हैं तो ऐसे कौन से बिन्दु होंगे, जिनको केन्द्र में रखते हुए कार्यक्रम बनाए जाएंगे और सारे धन का आबंटन करते हुए हम उन्हें राहत प्रदान कर सकेंगे। उन प्राथमिकताओं के अन्दर प्रथमत: हमारे सामने देश का वह गरीब व्यक्ति होगा जो गरीबी रेखा से नीचे का जीवन व्यतीत कर रहा है। साथ ही साथ यह भी देखा गया कि देश के अन्दर जो आधारभूत ढांचे की कमी है, वह आधारभूत ढांचा बनाया जाए और जिसे इतने वर्षों में पूर्ण हो जाना चाहिए था, किन्तु अभी तक वह पूर्ण नहीं हो सका है। यह देखा गया कि हमारे करों का निर्धारण इस प्रकार से होगा, जिसके अन्तर्गत सामान्य व्यक्ति पर उतना प्रभाव नहीं पड़ेगा, सामान्य व्यक्ति के ऊपर उसका असर नहीं होगा। इस समय देश के अन्दर आर्थिक व्यवस्था की दृष्टि से जो सर्वाधिक हितकारी है और उसे सबल बनाने में सक्षम है, ऐसे गांवों और किसानों को केन्द्र मानकर उसके अनुरूप हम बजट के आबंटन की सारी व्यवस्था करेंगे। एनडीए के समय चाहे जसवन्त सिंह जी वित्त मंत्री रहे हों या फिर चाहे यशवंत सिन्हा जी, इन्होंने यही सोच रखते हुए उसके अनुरूप बजट बनाया। इस सोच का परिणाम यह हुआ कि अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय जगत में भारत की वित्तीय स्थिति ऊपर उठती हुई दिखाई दी और चाइना के बाद दूसरा नम्बर भारत का आया था।

आज भी 2005-2006 में जो बजट प्रस्तुत किया गया है, वित्त मंत्री जी ने स्वयं इस बात को स्वीकार किया है कि जो भी क्रम चला आ रहा था, आज उसी के अनुरूप यह स्थिति है। लेकिन आज जो बजट प्रस्तुत किया गया है, इस बजट को देखने के पश्चात् उन सारी चीज़ों का अभाव दिखता है।

मान्यवर, इसमें यह कहा जरूर गया है कि हमने राजकोषीय घाटे को कम करने की कोशिश की है, हमने इसे 4.1 प्रतिशत किया है जो कि पहले की तुलना में कुछ कम है। इस बात का उल्लेख इसमें जरूर किया गया है, लेकिन फिर भी घाटा तो बरकरार है। घाटे में कोई खास कमी नहीं आई है और घाटे की अर्थव्यवस्था हमें कहां लेकर जाएगी यह कुछ नहीं कहा जा सकता।

मान्यवर, बजट के अन्तर्गत कॉमन मिनिमम प्रोग्राम का उल्लेख करते हुए साथ ही साथ महामहिम राष्ट्रपति जी के भाषण के दौरान भी सबसे पहले यह दर्शाया गया कि अब सरकार भारत निर्माण की दृष्टि से कार्यरत रहेगी। भारत निर्माण के इस कार्य को हम कैसे करेंगे? ऐसा लगता है कि इसके पूर्व भारत का निर्माण हुआ ही नहीं था और न ही हो रहा था, पहली बार भारत का निर्माण हो रहा है। मान्यवर, मैं समझता हूं कि पहले तो यह शब्द प्रयोग ही उपयुक्त नहीं है, लेकिन उन्होंने इसे रखा है और उसके अनुरूप उन्होंने इसकी रचना की है।

6.00 P.M.

इस भारत निर्माण के अन्तर्गत जिन बिन्दुओं को दिया गया है, मैं उन बिन्दुओं का उल्लेख करना चाहूंगा कि अगर इन बिन्दुओं विकास हो जाएगा तो भारत का निर्माण ठीक तरह से हो जाएगा। यह बहुत ही महत्वाकांक्षी योजना है। इसमें जो विभाग विशेष रूप से रखे गए हैं और जिन विभागों के संबंध में यह कहा गया है कि अगर इसमें हमने सफलता प्राप्त कर ली तो भारत का निर्माण हो जाएगा, इसमें 1,74,000 करोड़ की योजना बनाई गई है, जिसे 2009 तक पूरा किया जाना है। इसके अन्तर्गत एक करोड़ हेक्टेयर भूमि में सिंचाई संसाधन उपलब्ध कराने की बात कही गई है। यह भी कहा गया है कि आधारभूत ढांचे को व्यवस्थित करने के लिए विशेष रूप से 1000 की आबादी वाले समतल ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में और 500 की आबादी वाले पहाड़ी ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में सड़कें बनवाई जाएंगी। 60 लाख गरीबों को मकान दिए जाएंगे, 74,000 गांवों में शुद्ध पानी दिया जाएगा, 1,25,000 गांवों और 2.3 करोड़ घरों में बिजली दी जाएगी, 66,882 गांवों में टेलीफोन पहुंचाया जाएगा। इन सब कार्यों में ग्रामीण विकास, संचार, ऊर्जा, जल संसाधन इत्यादि से संबंधित विभाग लगाए जाएंगे। और इन मंत्रालयों के अंदर बजट का आबंटन करते हुए जो भी योजना सुनिश्चित की गई है, जो लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया है, इस लक्ष्य की पूर्ति की जाएगी। मान्यवर, इसको देखने के पश्चात लगता तो जरूर है कि बड़ी महत्वाकांक्षी योजना है और इसको करने के लिए मानो यह यू0पी0ए0 गवर्नमेंट सन्नद्ध है, जरूर उसको पूरा करेगी। लेकिन जो बजट का आबंटन है, जो खर्चे हैं, उन खर्चे को आबंटित करने की जो व्यवस्था है, उसको देखने के पश्चात यह लगता है कि योजना तो जरूर महत्वाकांक्षी है लेकिन उसके अनुसार यह व्यवस्था नगण्य है, यानी इतनी कम की व्यवस्था की जा रही है जिसके कारण उसमें कोई निर्माण की योजना 2009 तक पूरी होगी, यह तो कहीं दिखाई भी नहीं पड़ता। इसलिए मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय ने इसके लिए गत वर्ष 96 हजार करोड़ रुपए की मांग की थी इसके लिए। परन्तु उनके लिए जो पिछली बार बजट का आबंटन था वह 24 हजार करोड़ का था, लेकिन मांग थी 96 हजार करोड़ रुपए की 2009 तक के लिए, 24 हजार करोड़ रुपए का आबंटन था और उस समय उनको 48 हजार करोड़ रुपया चाहिए था, लेकिन वह प्राप्त नहीं हुआ। मान्यवर, उस आबंटन में भी उनको पूरा का पूरा धन प्राप्त नही हो सका। पिछले वर्ष 2004-2005 में 18 हजार करोड़ का बजट था, जिसमें केवल 12 हजार करोड़ मिल पाया। कितना खर्च हुआ है यह जानककारी नहीं है। इसी ढंग से, मान्यवर, मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि इस बार 31 हजार 444 करोड़ का आबंटन ग्रामीण विकास की दृष्टि से प्रावधानित है, जिसमें पेयजल की आवश्यकता का जो यहां लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया है उसके लिए 41 हजार करोड़ रुपए की जरूरत है। लेकिन जितना भी पैसा दिया जा रहा है, जो कुछ आंकड़े आए हैं और सी0ए0जी0 की जो रिपोर्ट है, उस रिपोर्ट के आधार पर मैं कह सकता हूं कि पैसा बिल्कुल खत्म ही नही हुआ और न उपयोगिता प्रमाण पत्र दिया गया है। मेरे पास सी0ए0जी0 की 2005 की रिपोर्ट है, उसमें 41 हजार ऐसे प्रमाण पत्र लम्बित थे, जो दिए नहीं गए थे। इसमें 10 हजार 527.56 करोड़ रुपए की राशि का विवरण होना है। मेरा कहना यह है कि जो भी बजट का आबंटन है, जो दिया भी गया है, आबंटित कर दिया गया है, वह व्यय भी नहीं हुआ है और व्यय न होने के साथ ही साथ उसकी उपयोगिता का जो प्रमाण पत्र देना चाहिए वह भी दिया नहीं गया है। इसलिए भारत निर्माण की जो बार-बार बात कही जाती है कि भारत निर्माण करने की दिशा में हम सन्नद्ध हैं और इस बार बताया गया है कि पिछली बार की तुलना में 54 फीसदी वृद्धि की है उनके बजट में, पिछली बार 12 हजार 160 करोड़ था, इस बार 18

हजार 696 करोड़ का आबंटन किया गया है। मान्यवर, उसमें यही सारी चीजें हैं जो एन0डी0ए0 के जमाने में प्रधान मंत्री ग्रामीण सड़क योजना 2000 में शुरू हुई थी और उस समय जो सड़क के निर्माण की दृष्टि से उसे किया गया था। इसी ढंग से सम्पूर्ण ग्रामीण रोजगार योजना थी, जो 25 दिसम्बर, 2001 में शुरू की गई थी जिसमें अनाज और नकद दोनों दिए जा रहे थे, जो गरीबी उन्मूलन की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम बढ़ाया गया है। उसमें 75 फीसदी दोनों की लागत थी और 100 फीसदी उसको वहन करते थे, जिसमें 2004-2005 में राज्य और संघ क्षेत्र में नकद चार हजार चार सौ छियान्वें करोड़ रुपए तथा 50 लाख टन अनाज मुहैया कराकर 82.23 मानव दिवस सृजित किए गए थे। उपसभापति महोदय, इस बजट के अंदर जो दूसरी योजना घोषित की गई है, वह अग्रगामी योजना है। बजट की मुख्य विशेषताओं में अग्रगामी योजना के अंतर्गत जो दिया गया है, वह पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र दिया गया है, सर्वशिक्षा अभियान दिया गया है, मध्याह्न भोजन स्कीम दी गई है, पेयजल और सफाई योजना दी गई है, राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन दिया गया है, एकीकृत बाल विकास सेवाएं हैं, राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी स्कीम है, जवाहर लाल नेहरू राष्ट्रीय शहरी नवीकरण मिशन है, राष्ट्रीय सामाजिक सहायता कार्यक्रम है, महिलाएं और बच्चे तथा अनुसूचित जातियां और अनुसूचित जनजातियां हैं, अल्प संख्यक और कस्तूरबा गांधी बालिका विद्यालय स्कीम है। ये सारी स्कीमें हैं जो अग्रगामी योजना के अंतर्गत हैं। इसके अंदर सर्वशिक्षा अभियान जिसमें 6-14 वर्ष की आयु वर्ग के 93 प्रतिशत बच्चे विद्यालय में पढ़ते हैं, उनकी निरंतरता बनी रहे इस बात के लिए इस पर पैसा खर्च किया गया है। इस सर्वशिक्षा अभियान में 7156 करोड़ रुपये दिये गये हैं। साथ ही साथ इसमें यह भी कहा गया है कि जो शिक्षा उपकर के माध्यम से राजस्व 8746 करोड़ रुपये प्राप्त हुआ है, वह इसी में जोड़ दिया जायेगा। मध्याह्न भोजन स्कीम होने के कारण इसमें पढ़ने वाले विद्यार्थियों की तादाद में वृद्धि होनी चाहिए, लेकिन वह बढ़ोत्तरी नहीं हुई है बल्कि विद्यालय छोड़ने वालों की संख्या ज्यादा बढ़ी है। जो बच्चे स्कूल नहीं जाते थे उनकी संख्या वर्ष 2001 में तीन लाख से ऊपर थी, लेकिन वर्ष 2005-06 में उनकी संख्या बढ़कर 4 लाख 15 हजार हो गई यानी 95 हजार अधिक हो गई। यह योजना बनाने के पश्चात् भी जो हमारी अपेक्षा थी, उस अपेक्षा के अनुरूप हम सर्वशिक्षा अभियान को सफल नहीं बना पाये हैं। यह बात सही है कि सर्वशिक्षा अभियान के अंतर्गत विद्यालय भवनों की स्थापना के लिए काफी संख्या में कहा गया है। विद्यालय भवनों की स्थापना के साथ-साथ शिक्षकों की नियुक्ति की भी बात कही गई है, लेकिन यह कितना कारगर साबित हो सकेगा, यह कहा नहीं जा सकता। यह अभियान वास्तव में बहुत ही उपयुक्त है, योग्य है, साक्षरता को बढ़ाने वाला है, लेकिन किस तरीके से इसको बढ़ाया जाये, यह इस बात पर निर्भर करता है।

मान्यवर, ग्रामीण स्वच्छता अभियान भी इसके अंतर्गत है। स्वच्छता के लिए पिछले वर्ष 630 करोड़ रुपये की राशि दी गई थी, इसको बढ़ाकर इस बार 720 करोड़ रुपये किया गया है। लेकिन यह राशि स्वच्छता की दृष्टि से बहुत कम है। अगर एक शौचालय बनवाया जाये, तो शौचालय बनवाने में काफी खर्चा आता है जबकि इसके अंतर्गत केवल 600 रुपये की सहायता दी जाती है। यह राशि नाकाफी है। जितनी स्वच्छता की हम अपेक्षा कर रहे हैं, वह इतनी कम राशि में पूरी नहीं हो सकती। इसी तरीके से गंदगी और पेयजल के बारे में है। गंदगी और पेयजल की समस्या के निवारण की दृष्टि से जो मद सुनिश्चित की गई है, यह मद पिछली बार की तुलना में कम है। पिछली बार 2005-06 में 2400.16 करोड़ और इस समय जो प्रावधानिक किया गया है वह 2245.37 करोड़ रुपये का किया गया है, यह पिछली बार की तुलना में कम किया गया है।

जो सूचना है, उस सूचना के आधार पर यह जानकारी प्राप्त की गई है कि 2904.16 करोड़ रुपया इस पर व्यय हो चुका है। इस प्रकार से पिछली बार की तुलना में 658.79 करोड़ व्यय कम किया गया है। यह बड़ा आश्चर्यजनक लग रहा है कि शहरी विकास की दृष्टि से, पेयजल की दृष्टि से, गंदगी के निवारण की दृष्टि से, जो अग्रगामी योजना के अंतर्गत राजीव गांधी शहरी विकास योजना के नवीनीकरण योजना के नाम पर बात कही गई है, उसमें जो पैसे का आबंटन है, वह आबंटन बहुत ही कम है। उस आबंटन के आधार पर हम इस व्यवस्था को ठीक कर सकते हैं, ऐसा मुझे नहीं लगता है।

श्री उपसभापति : मिश्र जी, आप और कितना समय लेंगे?

श्री कलराज मिश्र : जी।

श्री उपसभापति : आप कितना समय और लेंगे?

श्री कलराज मिश्र : सर, समय तो अभी और लगेगा।

श्री उपसभापति : आपकी पार्टी से पांच मेम्बर्स और बोलने वाले हैं तथा आपकी पार्टी को अलाटिड वक्त खत्म हो गया है, आप समय का ख्याल रखियेगा।

श्री कलराज मिश्र : सर, कल बोलने के लिए दस मिनट का समय चाहिए।

श्री उपसभापति : कल नहीं, अभी हाउस चलेगा। आप बोलना जारी रखिये। बिजनेस एडवाइजरी कमेटी ने डिसाइड किया है कि हम सात बजे तक बैठेंगे।

श्री कलराज मिश्र : मान्यवर, मैं किसानों के बारे में, विशेषकर जो इस बजट के अंदर बात कही गयी है, उसके बारे में कुछ कहना चाहता हूं। अर्थ व्यवस्था में कृषि का 18 फीसदी से ज्यादा योगदान है और सरकार ने तीन लाख तक के ऋण पर सात फीसदी ब्याज दर में छूट दी है। यह घोषणा उन्होंने की है। हमारी पार्टी ने, जैसा हमारे पूर्व वक्ता श्रीमान यशवंत सिन्हा जी ने कहा है कि पार्टी ने पहले भी घोषणा की थी कि 6 फीसदी तक आना चाहिए और हम जब सरकार में थे तो हमने स्वयं 9 फीसदी किया था। स्वामीनाथन जी की अध्यक्षता में जो आयोग था, उन्होंने जो सिफारिश की थी, वह चार फीसदी कम करने की सिफारिश की थी। अपेक्षा यह जरूर है कि जिस तरीके से किसानों की हालत है, उसे देखते हुए निश्चित रूप से जो ब्याज दर है, उसमें इतनी छूट दी जाए। अगर चार फीसदी नहीं दे सकते हैं तो 6 फीसदी तक जरूर पहुंचना चाहिए। महोदय, एक सर्वेक्षण हुआ था। एनएस के 59वें सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार कुल किसान परिवारों में 27 प्रतिशत को ही विधिवत ऋण मिल पाता है। 22 फीसदी ऐसे किसान हैं जो अनौपचारिक तौर पर, यानी इधर-उधर के स्रोत के आधार पर कर्जा लेते हैं। जब वे कर्जा लेते हैं और पूरा नहीं कर पाते हैं, उसमें ज्यादा लोगों को आत्महत्या करनी पड़ती है क्योंकि जब सेठों से कर्जा लेते हैं और वापस नहीं दे पाते तो उनकी कुर्की होनी शुरू हो जाती है, और भी पचास तरह की परेशानियां पैदा होती हैं, इसी कारण आत्महत्याएं होती हैं। ये किसान, जो केवल 27 फीसदी विधिवत कर्जे ले पाते हैं, इनमें बढ़ोत्तरी कैसे हो और 22 फीसदी जो अन्य सोर्सिज़ से कर्जे लेने की बात करते हैं, वे बैंकों की तरफ उन्मुख कैसे हों, इसके बारे में किसी न किसी प्रकार के प्रशिक्षण का स्वरूप निर्मित करना चाहिए, किसी न किसी ऐसे कार्यक्रम की रचना करनी चाहिए। बैंक चूंकि स्वायत्तशासी हैं - वित्त मंत्री ने स्वयं इस बात को कहा है कि पचास लाख और किसानों को इसमें बढ़ाने की कोशिश की जाएगी, बैंकों के माध्यम से - बैंक कितना कुछ कर पाएंगे, कुछ कहा नहीं जा सकता। बैंक विशेष रूप से उदासीनता ही बरतते हैं। बैंकों से रिपोर्ट

लेने के पश्चात कई बार हम लोगों को मौका भी मिला है, समितियों के माध्यम से जब जानकारी करने की कोशिश की गयी तो बैंकों की ओर से, जिस ढंग से कर्जे देने की बात आनी चाहिए, उसमें बड़ी उदासीनता दिखायी पड़ी है। महोदय, कृषि ऋण का इन्होंने 1 लाख 75 हजार करोड़ रुपया बढ़ाने का प्रस्ताव जरूर किया है लेकिन पिछली बार जो 1 लाख 41 हजार 500 करोड़ का लक्ष्य था, वह लक्ष्य भी पूरा हुआ या नहीं हुआ, सुनिश्चित रूप से यह जानकारी भी आवश्यक है। दो फीसदी कृषि वृद्धि, फसल उत्पादन में आया ठहराव मानसून पर निर्भर जरूर करता होगा लेकिन किसानों की व्यवस्था की दृष्टि से जो और सुविधाएं उनको प्रदान करनी चाहिए - एनडीए सरकार के दौरान हमने कई सुविधाएं किसानों को दी थीं, फसल आय बीमा योजना, यह सब हमने सुनिश्चित किया था - उसको प्रभावी तौर पर लागू करने की बात होनी चाहिए। किसानों में जो सेल्फ हेल्प ग्रुप है, उसके लिए जो कर्जे लेते हैं, उसकी ब्याज दर 9 फीसदी है। महोदय, इसको भी घटाकर कम करना चाहिए, उसी के अनुरूप करना चाहिए ताकि किसान अनुभव कर सकें कि हमें हर तरीके से सुविधा प्रदान करने की कोशिश की जा रही है। इसके साथ किसी भी प्रकार की विभेदकारी स्थिति निर्मित होना उचित नहीं होगी। अभी अल्पसंख्यकों के लिए, उनके शिक्षण संस्थानों के लिए बजट की व्यवस्था की गयी है, उर्दू भाषा के लिए दस करोड़ से बढ़ाकर 13 करोड़ किया गया है। लेकिन संस्कृत भाषा के लिए कहीं उल्लेख भी नहीं किया गया है। मैं चाहूंगा कि संस्कृत के विकास के लिए भी बजट का समुचित तौर पर आवंटन आवश्यक है।

मान्यवर, यह सब देखने के पश्चात मैं कह सकता हूं कि जिस ढंग से बजट का आवंटन किया गया है, हर दृष्टि से जो बात की गई है, सेवा-कर में जो बढ़ोत्तरी की गई है, उसके कारण महंगाई आसमान छूने लगी है। आम आदमी को इसने प्रभावित किया है और इस सेवा-कर में दस फीसदी से बारह फीसदी की बढ़ोत्तरी होने पर, एक-एक व्यक्ति पर तीन सौ रुपए तक का बोझ पड़ सकता है, वह प्रभावित हो सकता है। इसलिए जहां छूट देने की बात की गई है, एक्साइज़ ड्यूटी में भले ही कुछ छूट दी गई होगी, उससे कोई बहुत अधिक लाभ आम आदमी को होगा, यह तो नहीं दिखाई पड़ता है, लेकिन इसके कारण आम आदमी तबाह ज़रूर हो रहा है और आम आदमी को तबाही देने वाला इस बजट का स्वरूप बन गया है। मैं चाहूंगा कि वित्त मंत्री इस पर विचार करते हुए, निश्चित रूप से जो आम आदमी को सेवा-कर इस ढंग से प्रभावित कर रहा है, उससे मुक्ति दिलाएं। यह सब देखने के पश्चात मैं कह सकता हूं कि बजट, जो आम आदमी के लिए उपयोगी होना चाहिए, जिसमें गरीब आदमी को केंद्र में रखकर उसकी समुचित व्यवस्था करने की बात होनी चाहिए, उस दृष्टि से यह उपयुक्त नहीं है। यह कहते हुए, आपने मुझे अवसर दिया, इसके लिए धन्यवाद देते हुए, मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं।

STATEMENT BY MINISTERS - *Contd.*

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in Third, Seventh and Ninth Reports of the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): Sir, I lay on the Table a statement regarding the Status of implementation of